

BER-CE- S, ED- STORY

4



"Kaoru Mori

HERO- S.E.D. STORY

4

Kaoru
Mori



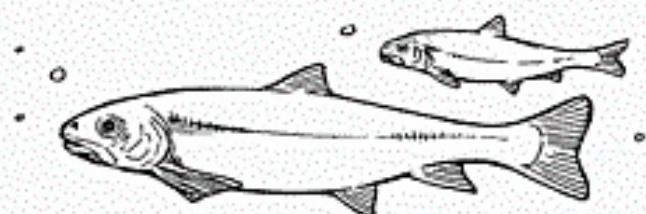


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◆ CHAPTER 18 ◆

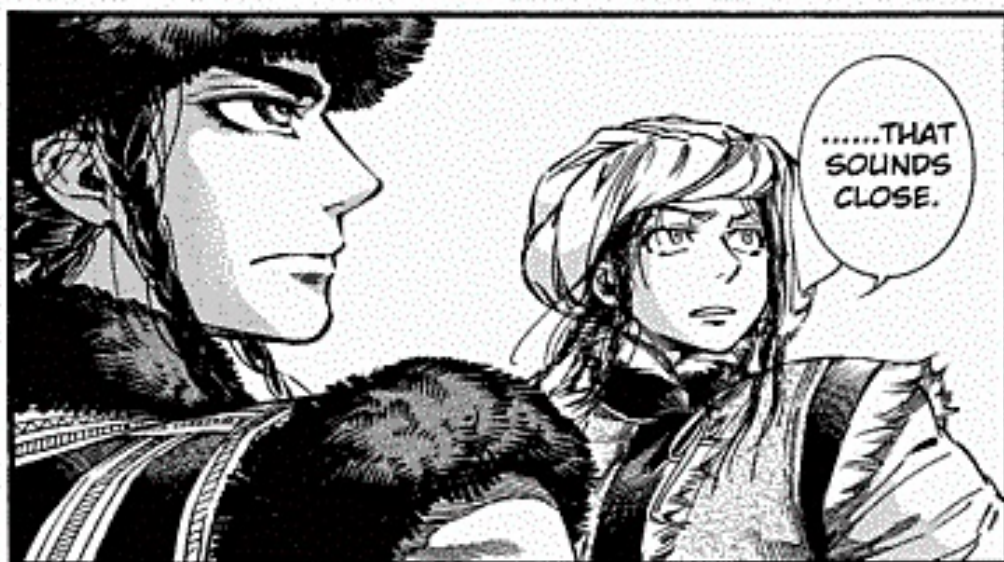
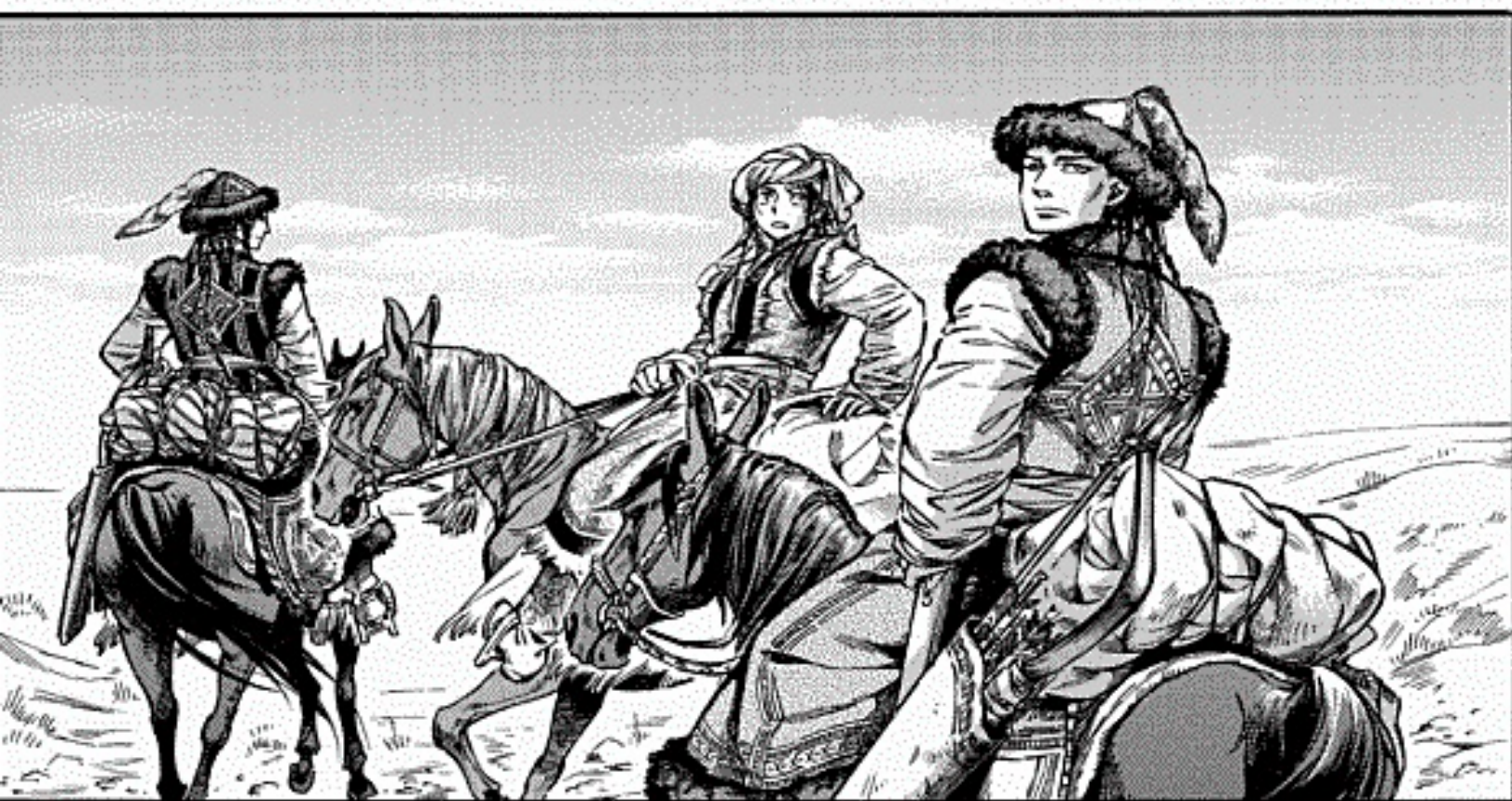


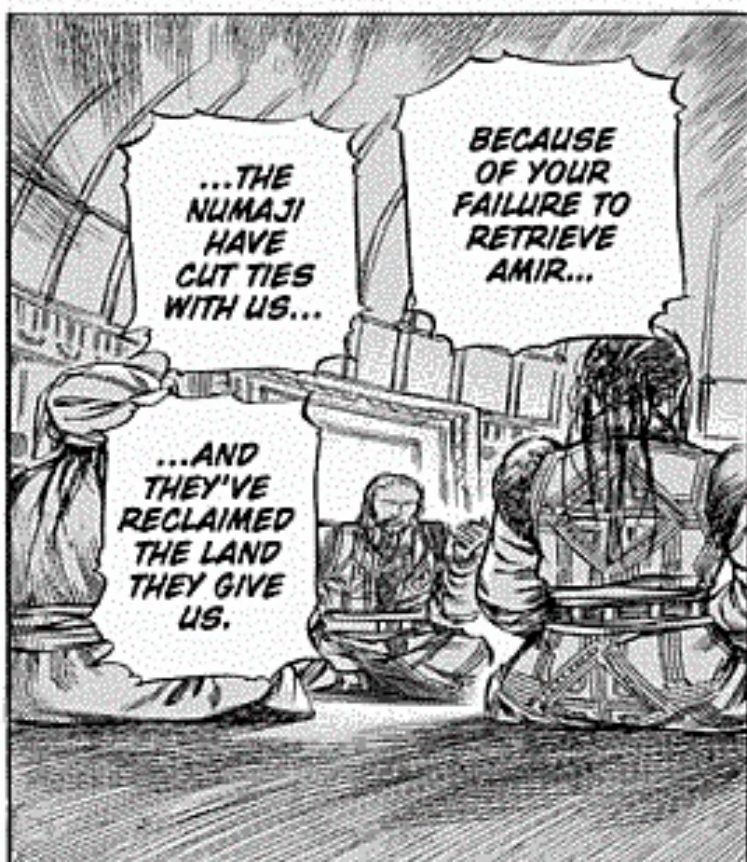
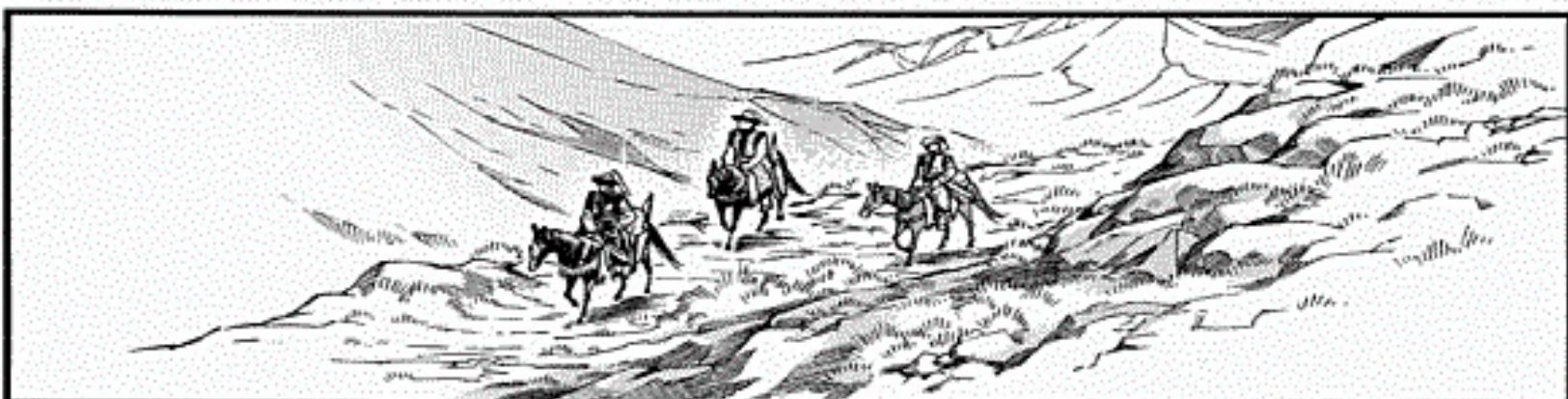
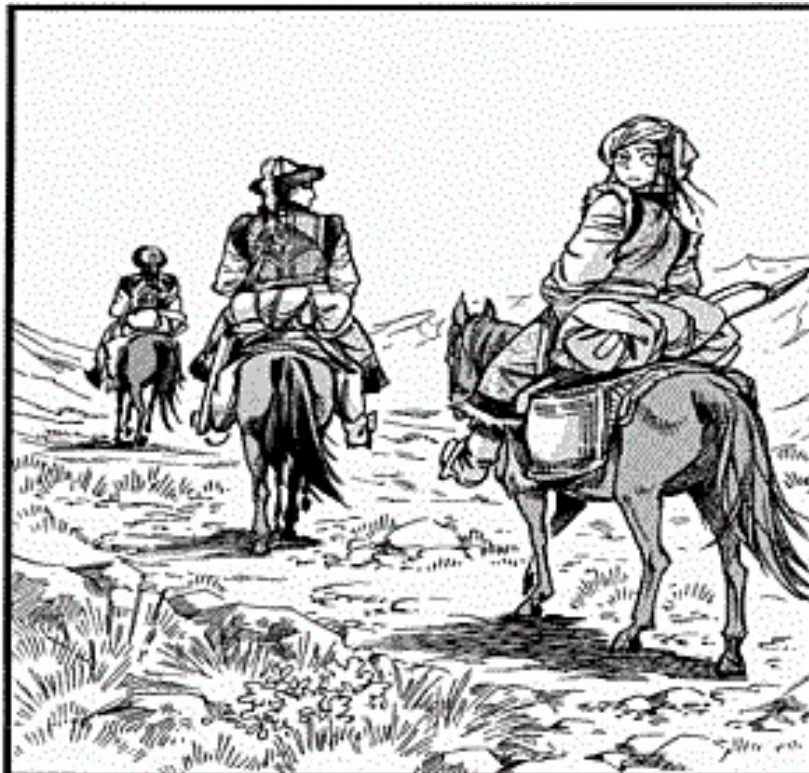
SFX: FU (SNIFF) FU

◆
CHAPTER EIGHTEEN
VISITATION
◆



W0000...







WINTER
IS ON ITS
WAY...

...AND
WE DON'T
HAVE ENOUGH
LAND FOR
GRAZING.

IF WE
DON'T DO
SOMETHING,
BOTH WE AND
OUR SHEEP WILL
STARVE!



...AND
NOW WE'VE
BECOME A
LAUGHING-
STOCK!

WORSE,
WE WERE
HUMILIATED
BY THOSE
TOWNS-
PEOPLE...



UNCLE!

A RUSSIAN
ARMY
UNIT IS
STATIONED
THERE...



LISTEN,
AZEL.

YOU MUST
GO TO
BADAN AND
MAKE THE
ARRANGE-
MENTS
FOR US.



THOSE
BORDER-
STRADDLING
BARBAR-
IANS!

BESIDES,
THE
RUSSIANS
ARE
NOTHING!



THE BADAN
CLAN IS
DESCENDED
FROM THE
SAME
ANCESTORS
AS US.



WE'RE
GOING
TO STEAL
BACK OUR
LAND FROM
THOSE
VILLAINS!

IF THE
NUMAJI
THINK WE'LL
TAKE THIS
LYING DOWN,
THEY'RE
IN FOR A
SURPRISE!



WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
COMBINING
OUR STRENGTH
WITH THEIRS?



DO YOU
INTEND
TO TURN
TRAITOR
AND ALLY
OUR CLAN
WITH THE
ENEMY!?

NO
ONE SAID
ANYTHING
ABOUT
ALLYING
WITH THE
RUSSIANS!



JORLUK!

AREN'T YOU READY YET?



AFTER ALL, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE WE MAY NOT COME BACK.



LET'S JUST TAKE IT EASY.

I DON'T SEE ANY REASON TO HURRY.

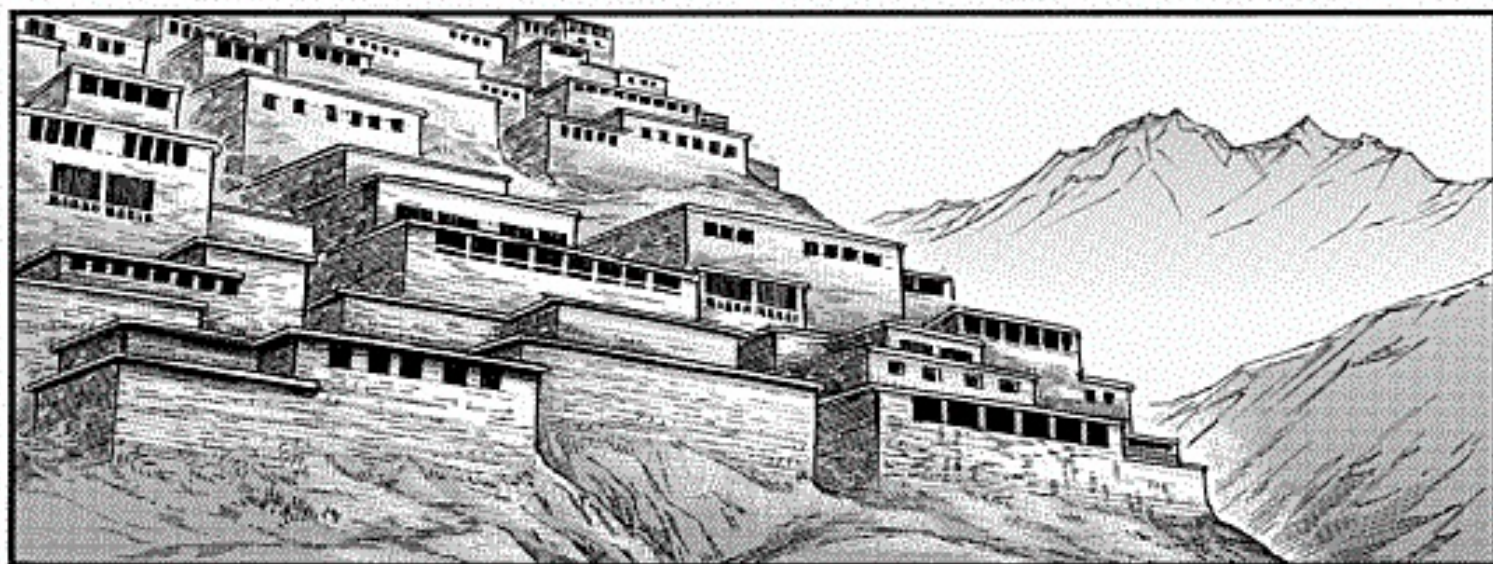
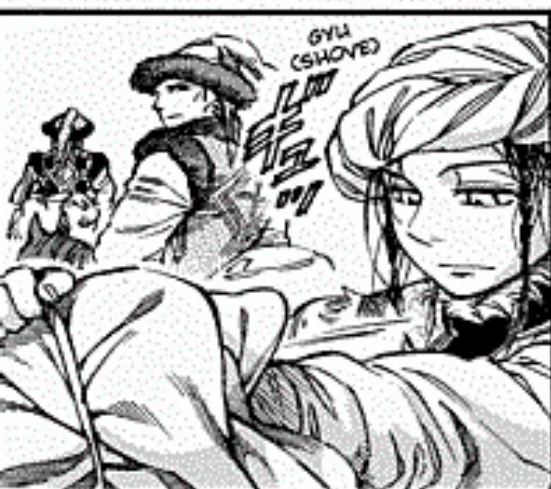


...ON THESE ER-RANDS.

WE'RE ALWAYS THE ONES SENT RUSHING OFF...



.....PART OF OUR JOB IS TO ENSURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.





HOHH?
IS THAT
RIGHT?

IF SO,
WE'VE
LONG
SINCE
FORGOT-
TEN IT.



OUR PEOPLE
SHARE DISTANT
ANCESTORS
AND ARE LONG-
SEPARATED
COUSINS.

IF WE
WERE TO
JOIN HANDS,
OUR
STRENGTH
WOULD BE
FORMI-
DABLE.



...BUT IF I'M
TO BELIEVE
THE RUMORS,
YOUR TRIBE IS
FACING SOME
UNFORTUNATE
SITUATIONS
THESE DAYS.

YES,
THAT'S
ALL WELL
AND
GOOD...



YOUR
ENEMY
SHALL
BE OUR
ENEMY.

OUR
FORCES
WILL BE
YOURS.



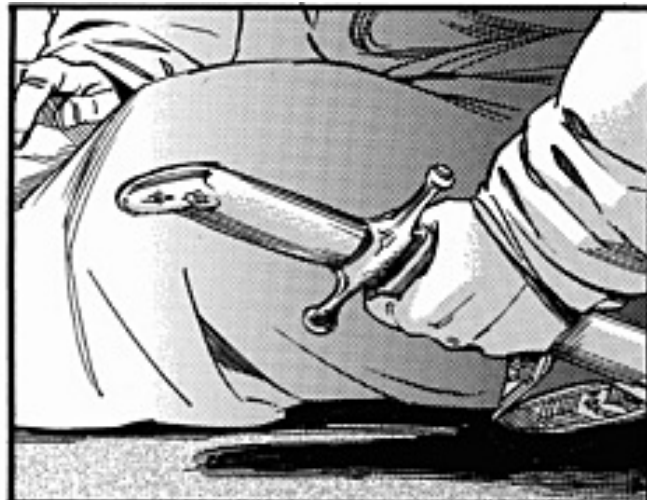
YOUR
FORCES
WILL BE
OURS?

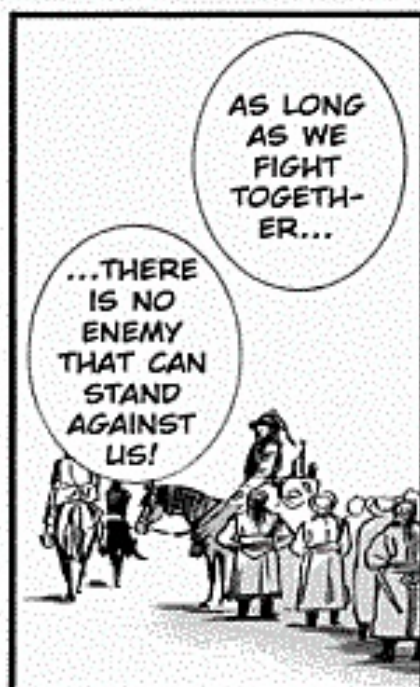
YOU
MEAN, OUR
FORCES
WILL BE
YOURS.



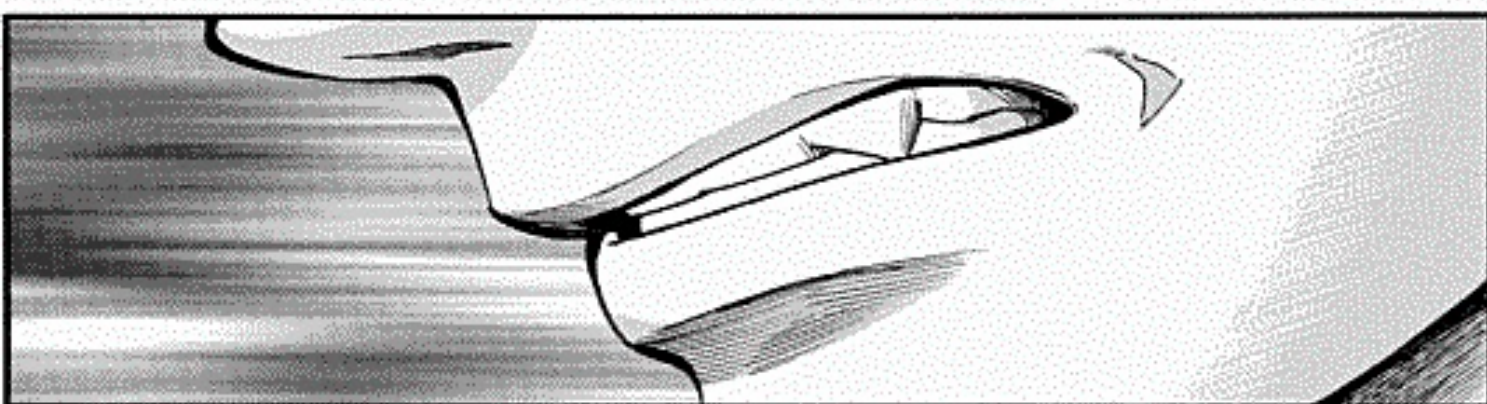
THE
CONVERSE
OF WHAT
YOU JUST
SAID...

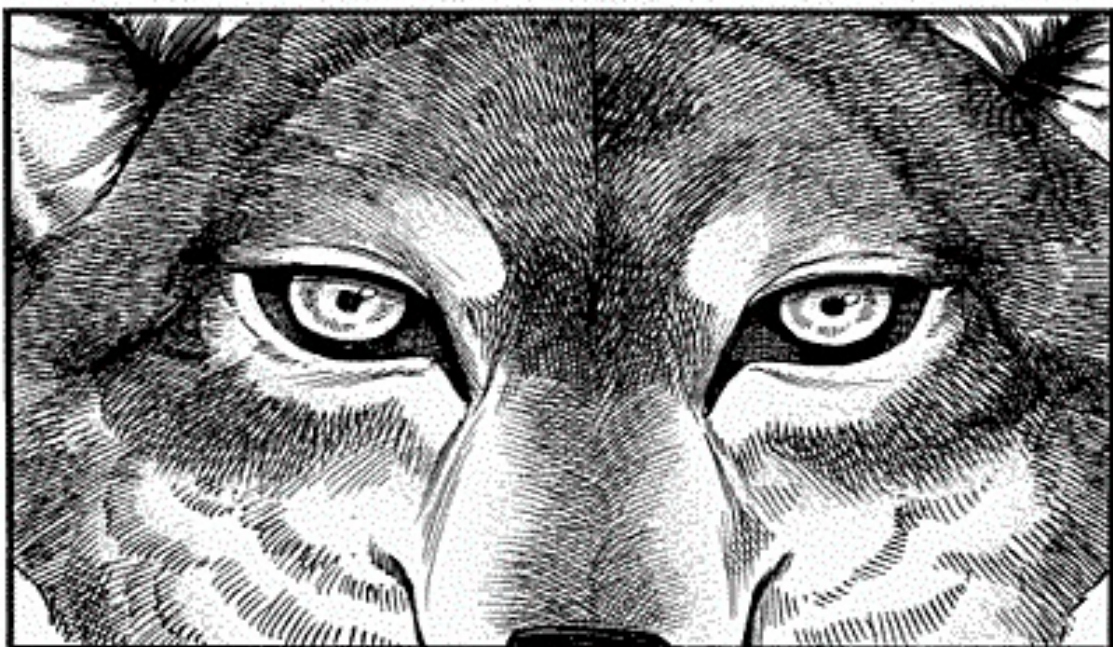
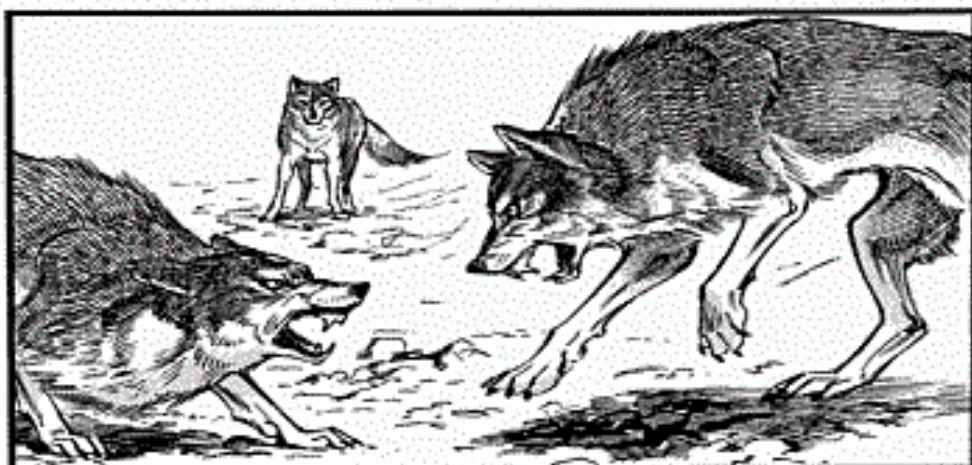
...MEANS
IT'S REALLY
YOUR
ENEMIES
THAT WILL
BECOME
OUR
ENEMIES,
RIGHT?

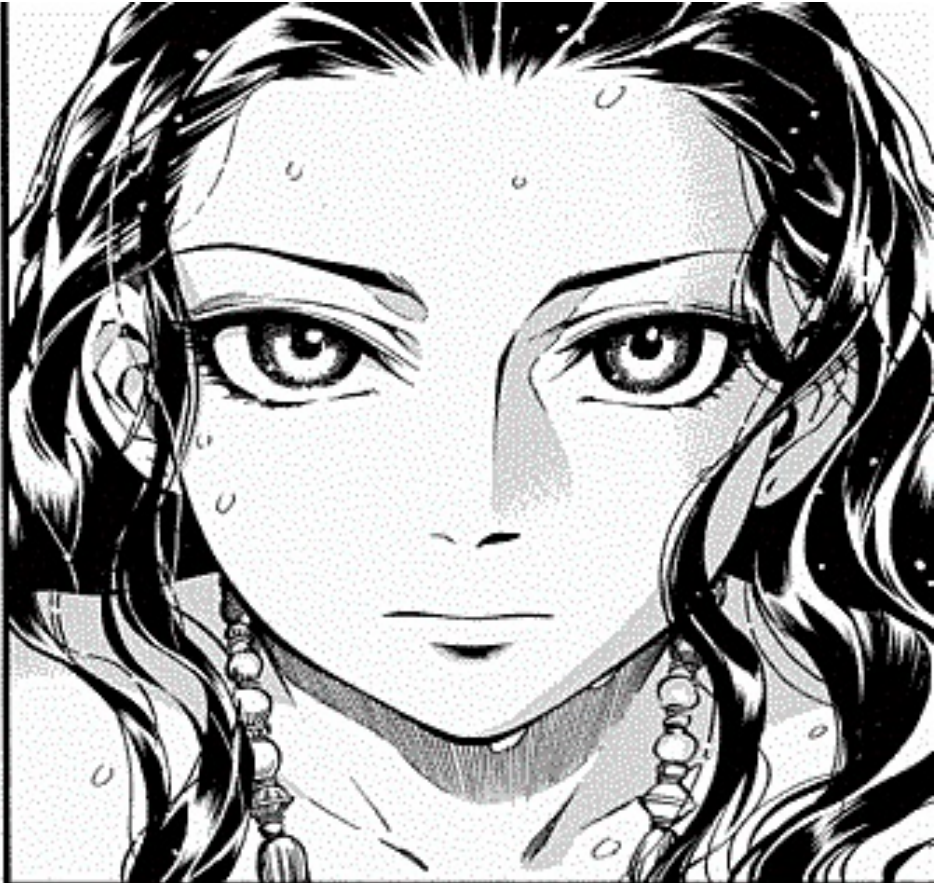
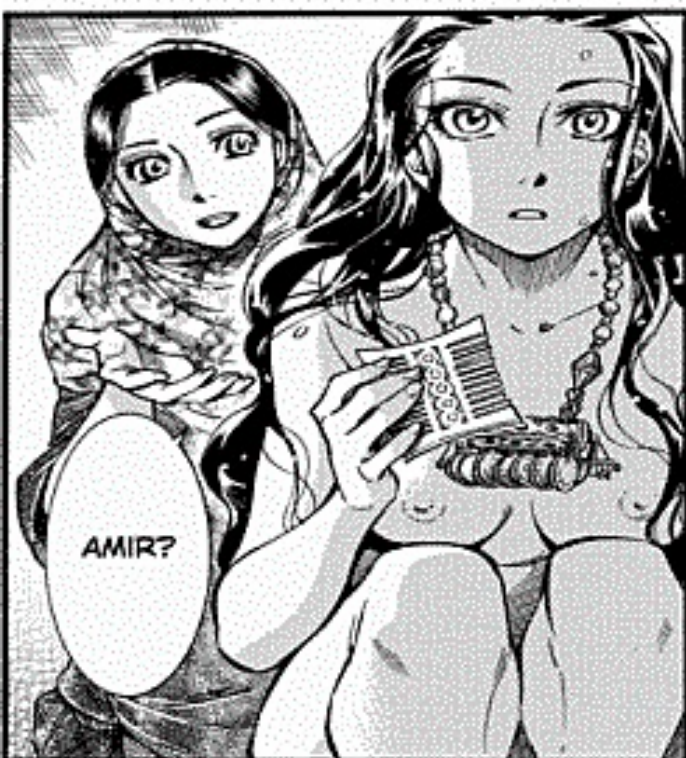


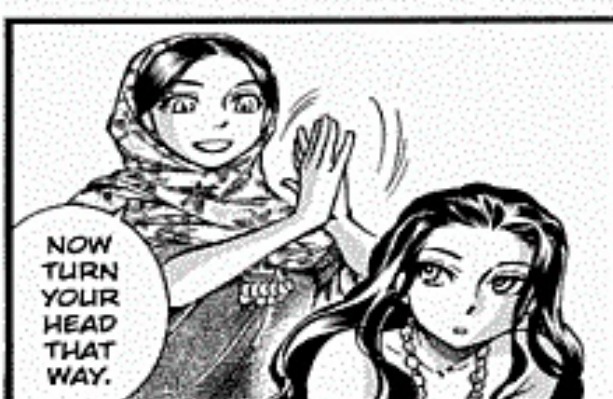
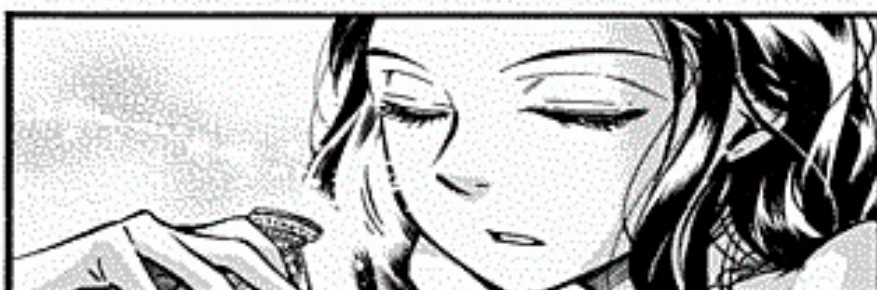


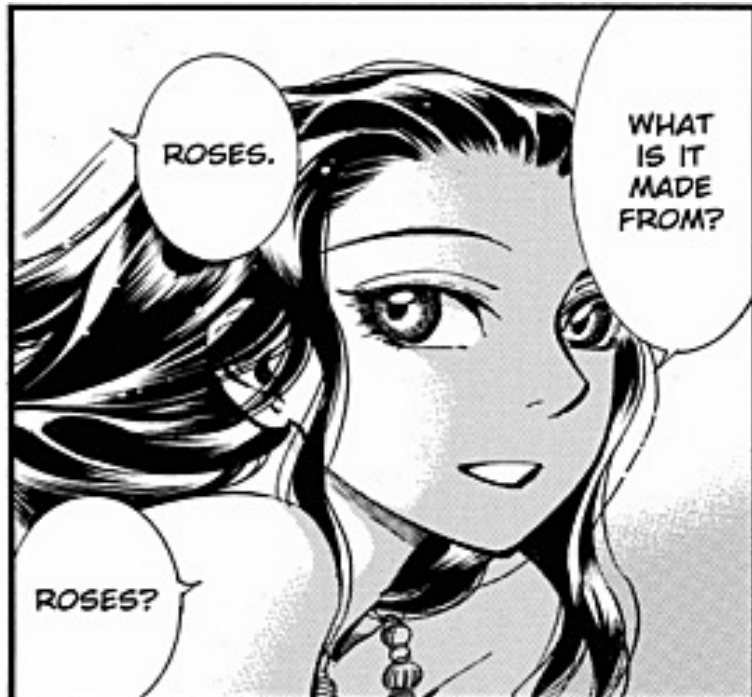


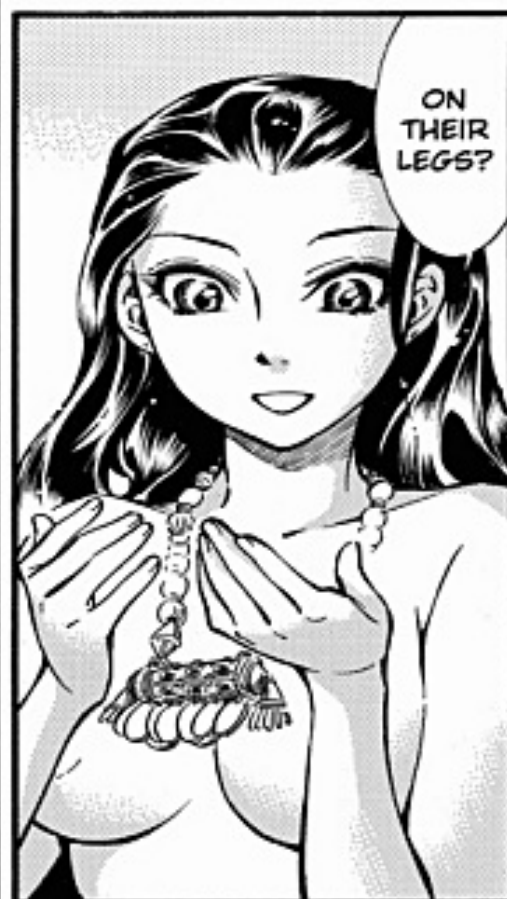
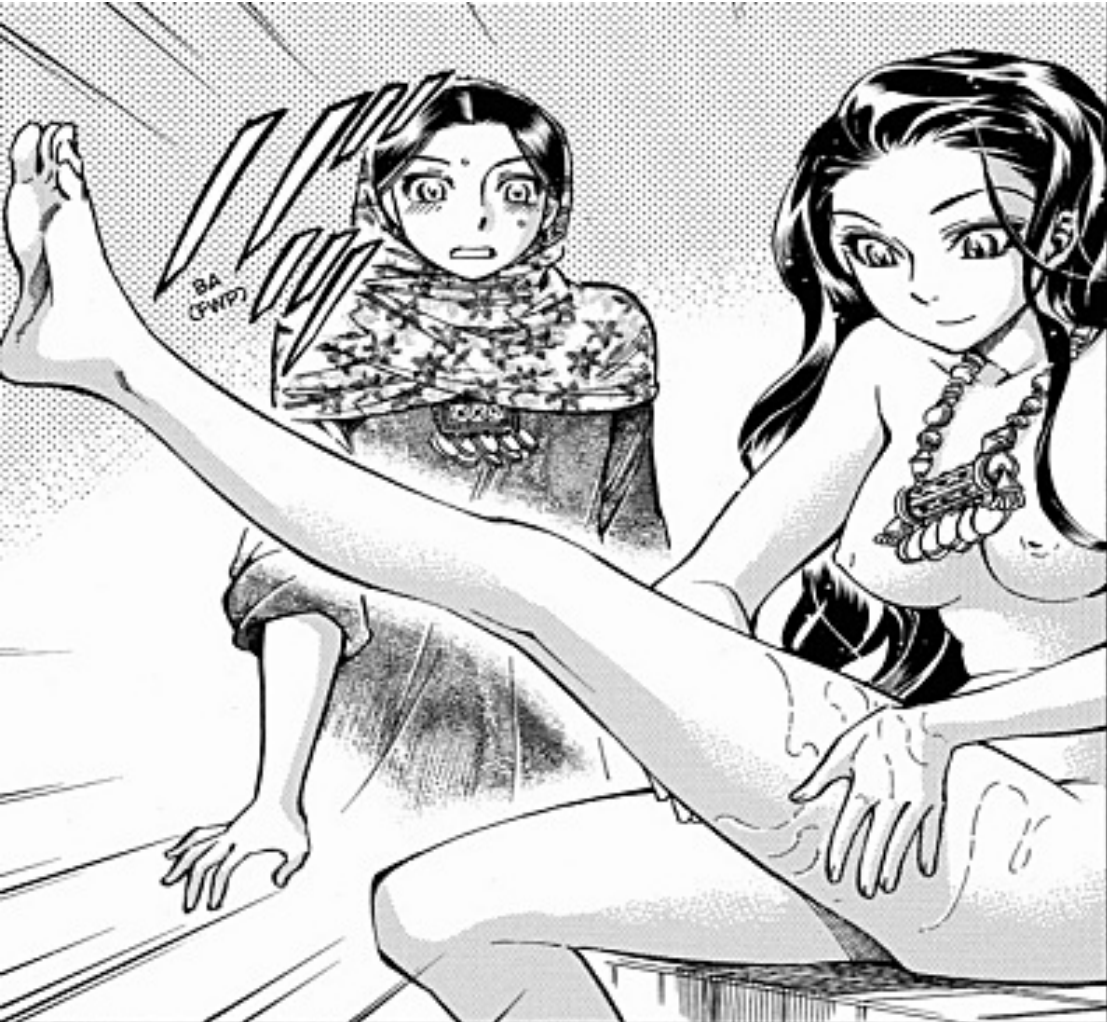


















THAT REMINDS ME, KARLUK.



THAT'S TRUE.

THAT WAY ANY NEWS WILL REACH US MORE QUICKLY.

REGARDLESS OF WHAT ELSE HAPPENS, OUR PRIORITY IS STAYING IN CONTACT WITH THE NEARBY TOWNS.



A PERSON WHO FLED FROM THE FIGHT WAS THERE IN PERSIA.

I'M FAIRLY SURE.

ARE YOU CERTAIN !?



...AMIR'S OLD CLAN?

SO IT ISN'T...

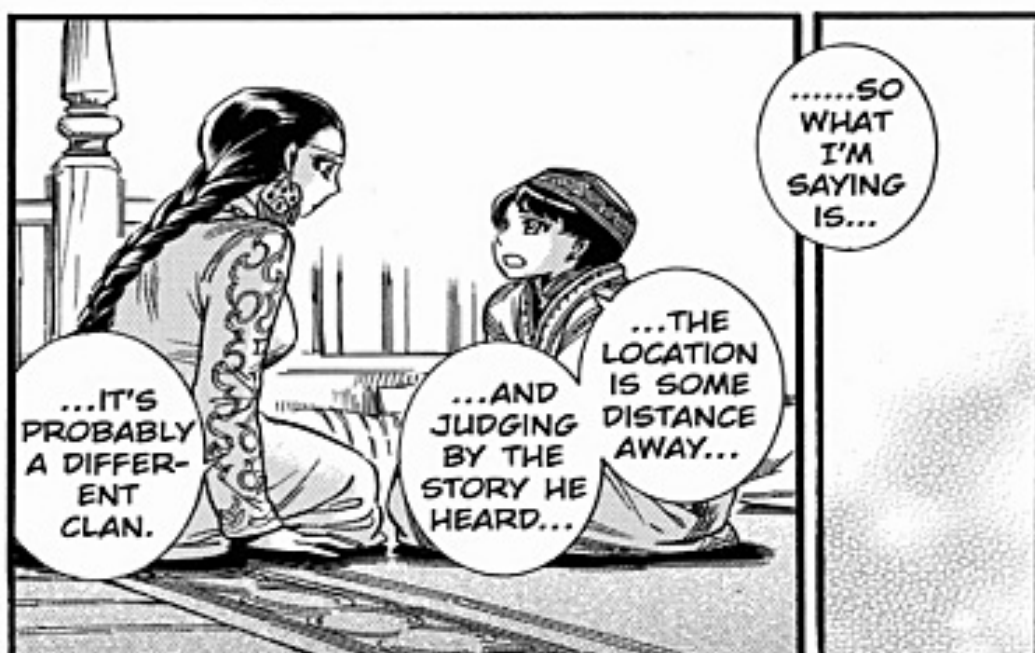


I HEAR IT ISN'T THE HALGAL.

THERE'S A MOUNTAIN CLAN IN SOME DISPUTE WITH THE RUSSIANS, RIGHT?



...IS THAT RIGHT?



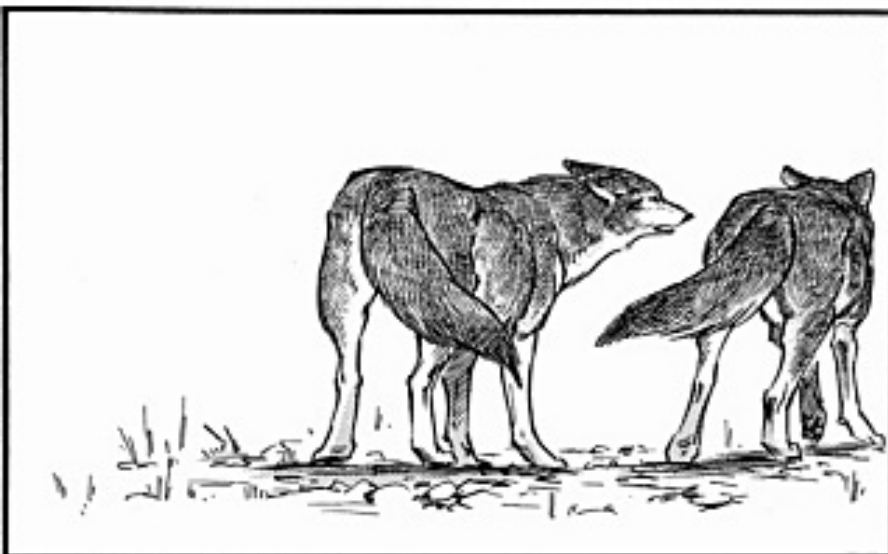
...IT'S PROBABLY A DIFFERENT CLAN.

...AND JUDGING BY THE STORY HE HEARD...

...THE LOCATION IS SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

.....SO WHAT I'M SAYING IS...









THE
CENTRAL
GARDEN'S
BEEN
SWEEP?

AND THE
WATER HAS
BEEN SET
TO BOIL?



ALL OF
THE FOOD
HAS BEEN
PREPARED,
CORRECT?



YES, I
KNOW.

BUT
DEAR,
PARIYA
IS...

WELL,
PUT
HER IN
HER BEST
CLOTHES
ANYWAY.

ORO
ORO
(PANIC)



GOOD.
GOOD.

WE HAVE
IMPORTANT
BUSINESS
TO DISCUSS.

AND
NOTHING
MUST GO
WRONG.



HE SAID HE
WOULD VERY
MUCH LIKE TO
COME HERE
TO SPEAK
WITH YOU
ABOUT IT.

HE
ASKED
ME TO
PASS THE
MESSAGE
ALONG TO
YOU.



YES.

THE YOUNG
MAN'S FATHER
SEEMED QUITE
TAKEN WITH
PARIYA.



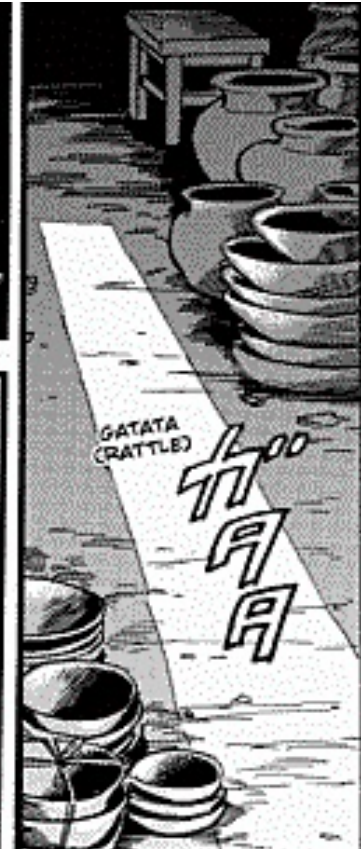
STILL...
I NEVER
EXPECTED
THIS TO
HAPPEN...

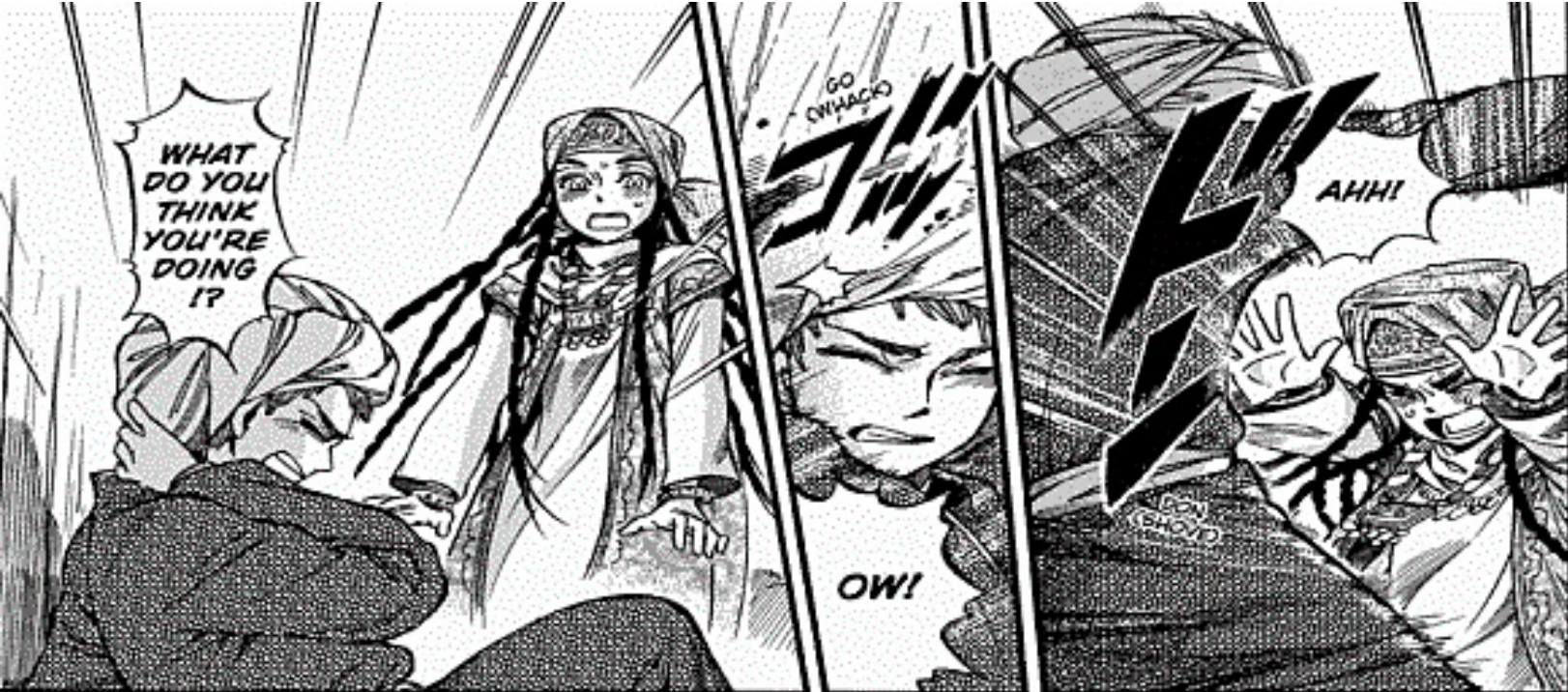
YOU
MEAN
PARIYA?

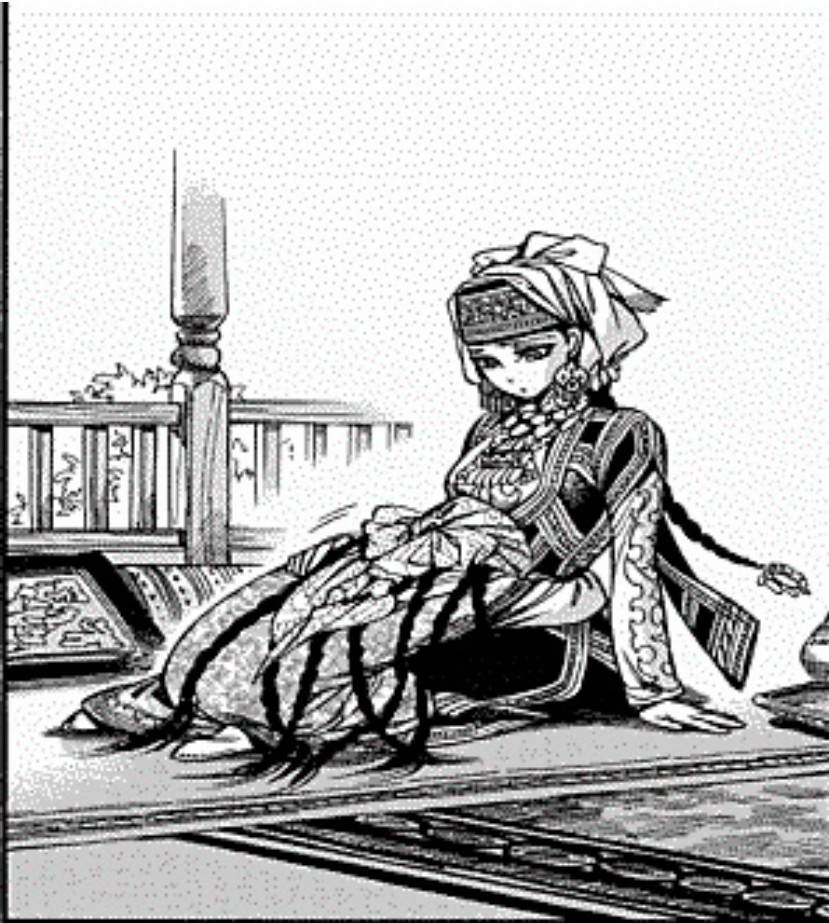












BUT
EVERY-
BODY
HATES
ME!

THAT
ISN'T
TRUE.



...I CAN'T BE
LIKE NORMAL
PEOPLE AND
JUST SAY
NICE THINGS.



I THINK
THE YOUNG
MAN MAY
SIMPLY HAVE
A MISTAKEN
IMPRESSION
OF YOU.

I REALLY
LIKE YOU,
PARIYA.



HE'S
SO MAD
AT ME.

WELL,
I'M SURE
HE'LL NEVER
COME
NEAR ME
AGAIN.

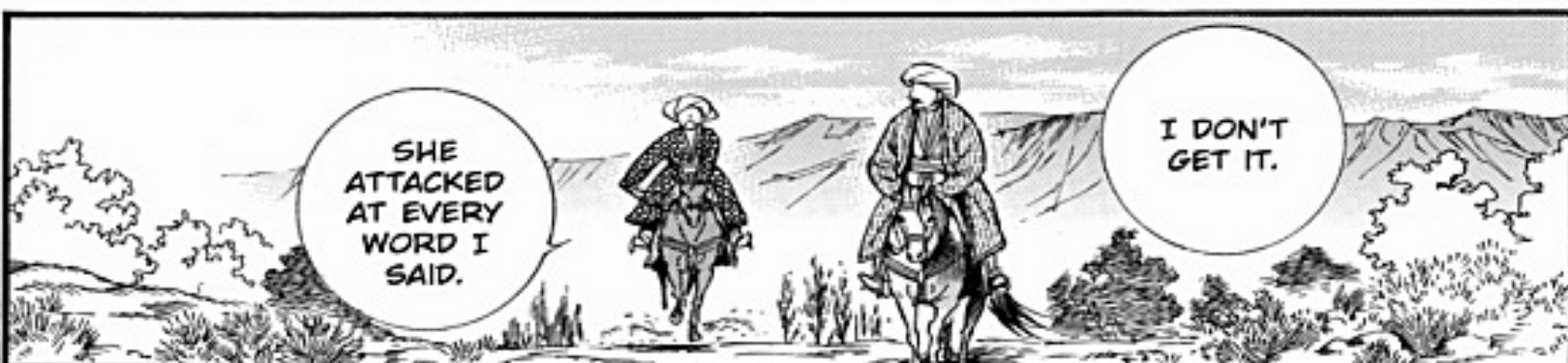


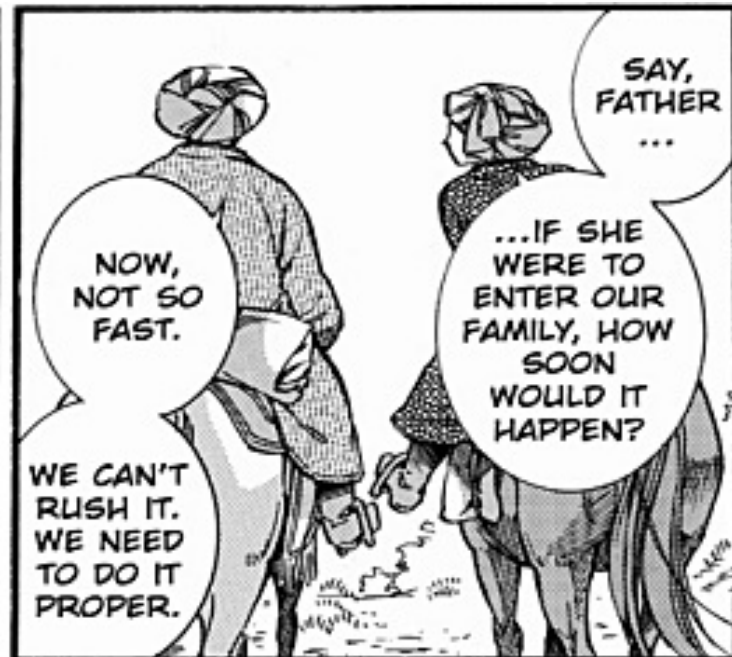
EVERY-
BODY
HATES
ME!

SOMEBODY
HATES
YOU?

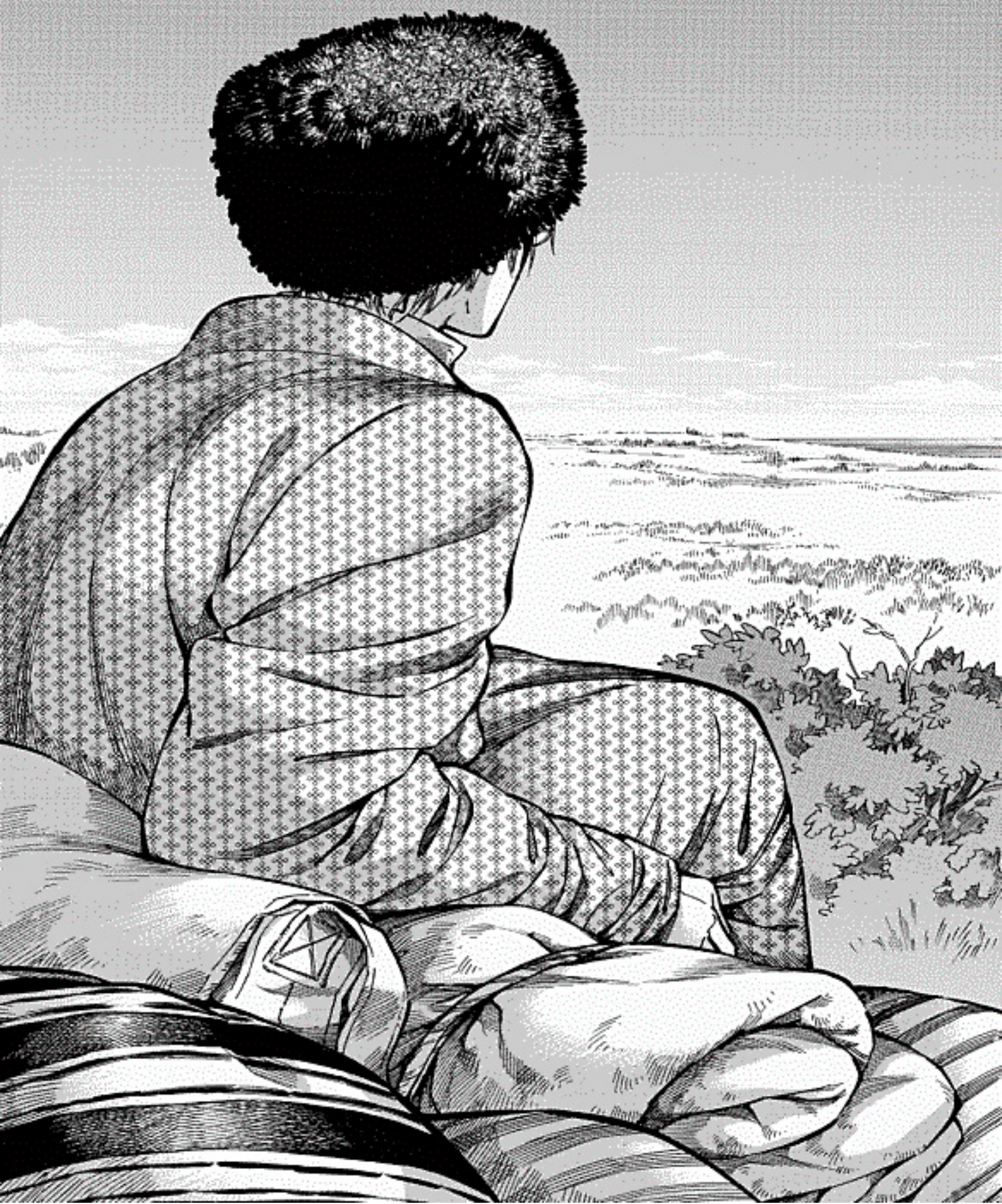
OBVI-
OUSLY!

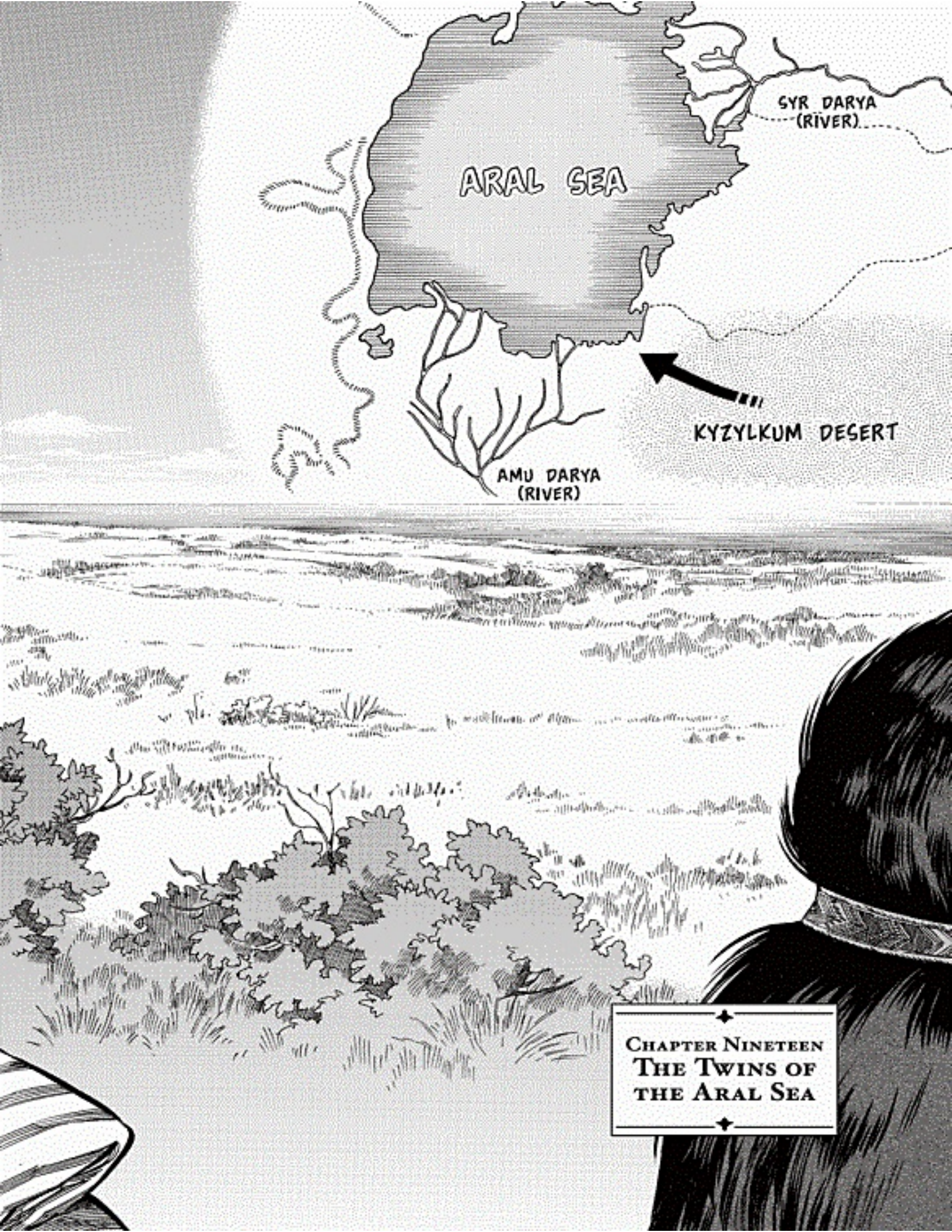
AND I
THOUGHT
THIS TIME
WAS GOING
TO BE THE
ONE!











ARAL SEA

SYR DARYA
(RIVER)

KYZYLKUM DESERT

AMU DARYA
(RIVER)

◆
CHAPTER NINETEEN
THE TWINS OF
THE ARAL SEA
◆



YES.



WHAT?

WERE YOU ASLEEP?



SURE IS!

I TAKE IT THAT'S THE ARAL SEA?



NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED TO DO.

I'LL WAKE YOU UP WHEN WE GET TO THE NEXT TOWN.

THEN SLEEP.



YESTERDAY...

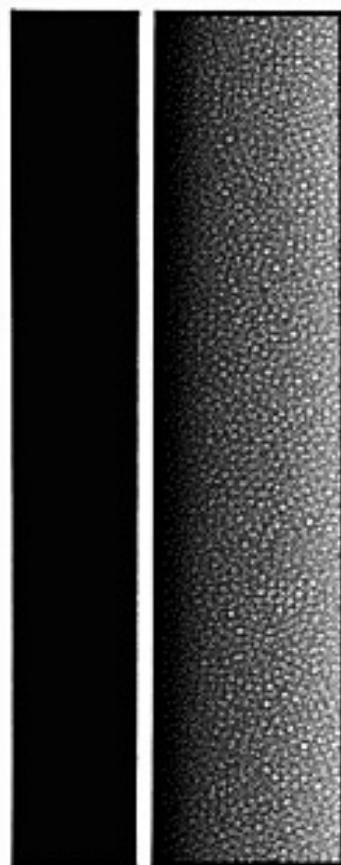
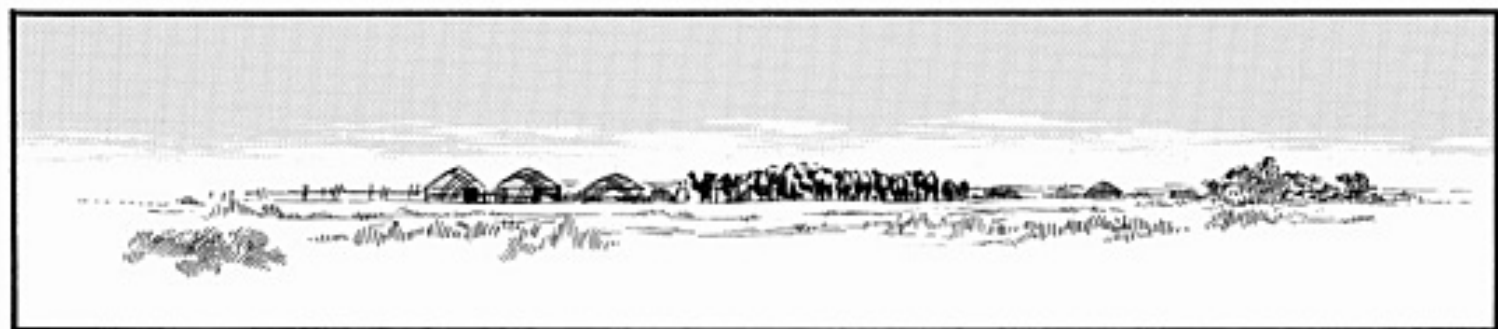
...I WASN'T ABLE TO SLEEP MUCH...



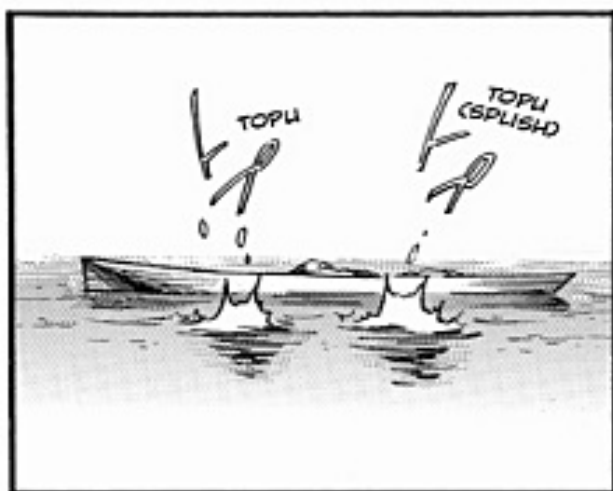
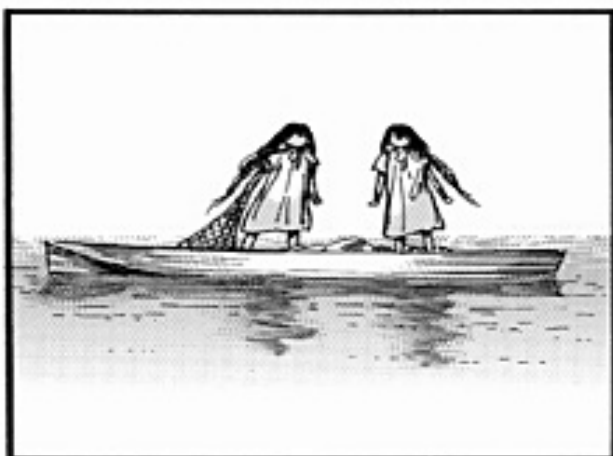
OH, MY!

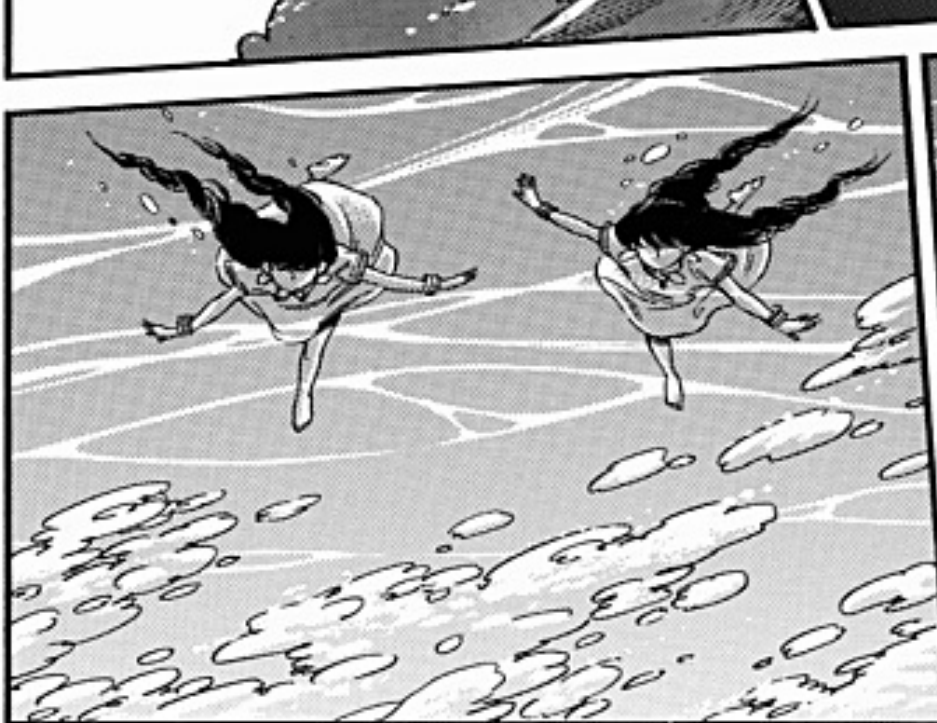
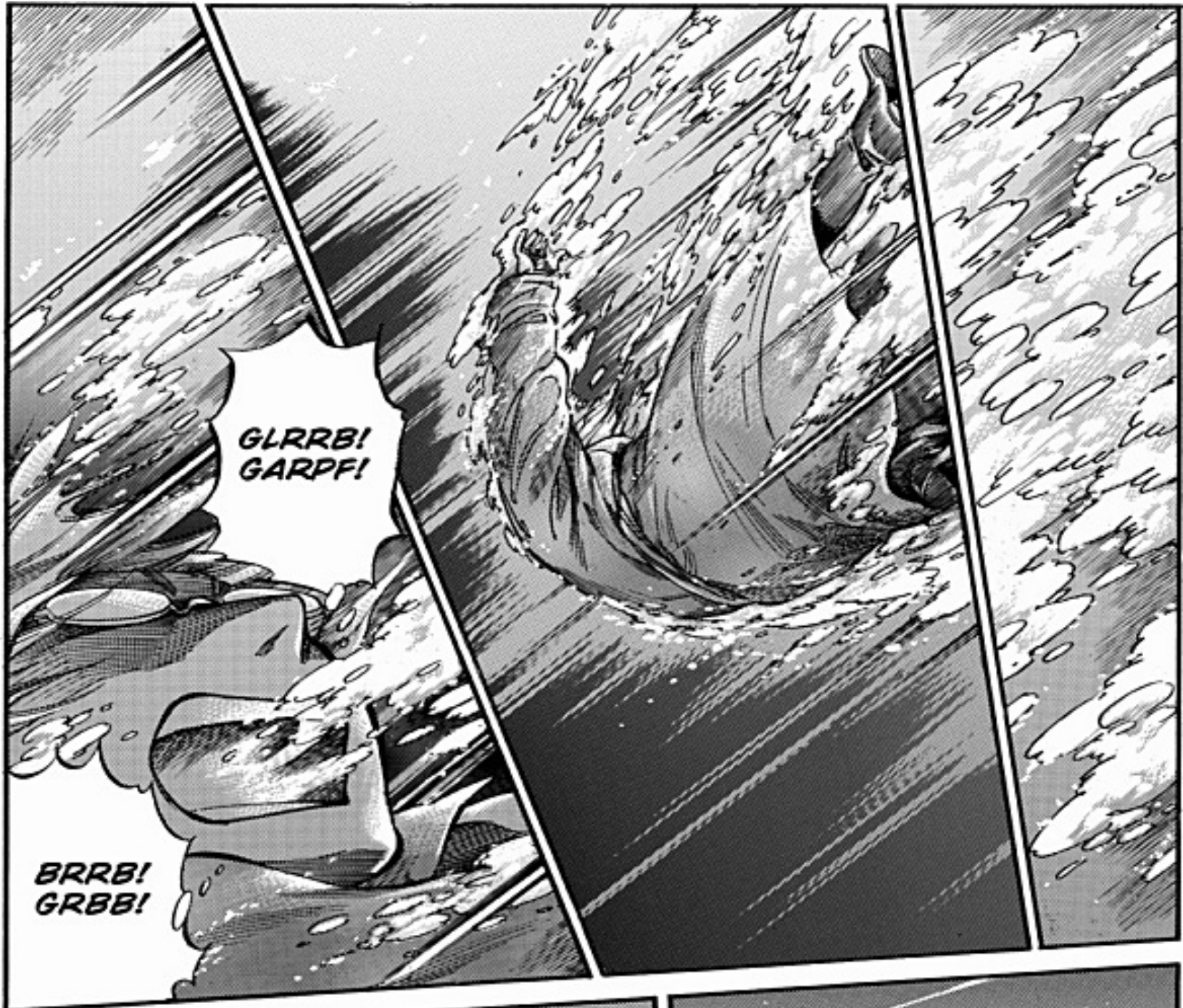


PERHAPS I SHALL













EH?

UM, I
COULDN'T
REALLY SAY
WHAT I DID
EXACTLY...

!!



YOUR
GLASS-
ES?

MY
GLASS-
ES...



MISTER,
DID YOU
FALL OFF
YOUR
CAMEL?

BECAUSE
I THOUGHT
YOU
JUMPED!

HOW
DO YOU
FALL
OFF
YOUR
CAMEL?

WHAT'D
YOU DO?



DOPON
(SPLASH)
DOPON

HEY!
YOU'LL
NEVER
FIND
THEM!

THEY
REALLY
ARE
TINY!



GLASS
!?

LAILA!

SO IF
WE FIND
GLASS,
THEN
THAT'S IT,
RIGHT?

LEILY!

AH!
HEY!



GLASS-
ES?

THEY
LOOK
LIKE THIS
AND HAVE
THESE
GLASS
OVALS
INSIDE OF
THEM!

WHAT'S
A
GLASS-
ES!?

TWO
OVALS
EXACTLY
ALIKE,
JUST
LIKE
YOU
TWO!











HUH?

...YOU
COULD
SAY
THAT.

.....YES,
I SUP-
POSE...



SO
YOU'RE A
DOCTOR,
MISTER?

REALLY
?



SO IF WE
BRING ONE
BACK WITH
US, THEY'LL
SAY WE DID
SOMETHING
GOOD
FOR A
CHANGE...

ANYWAY,
COME
WITH US!!

DOCTORS
DON'T
COME BY
HERE
VERY
OFTEN!



COULD
YOU
COME
WITH US
TO OUR
HOUSE?

HE
HASN'T
BEEN
FEELING
WELL
LATELY!

WE WANT
YOU TO
SEE OUR
GRAND-
FATHER!



WELL,
THEY DID
SAVE MY
LIFE, SO I
AM IN
THEIR
DEBT...
WE
DON'T
HAVE
MUCH
CHOICE,
HUH?



HE
CAN'T
DRINK
HERE!
THIS IS
SEA-
WATER!

WE'VE
GOT A
WELL
AT
HOME!

HEY,
DON'T
JUST...

YOU
HAVE TO
WATER
YOUR
CAMEL!



...UM...

IF WE
TAKE ONE
DETOUR,
IT'LL
NEVER
END.





UM...

LET'S
SEE...

IF I HEAR
SOMETHING
I DON'T
WANT TO
FORGET, I
MAKE A
NOTE OF IT
IN HERE.



ARE YOU
EXTRA
FORGET-
FUL?

.....



WHAT
HAVE YOU
BEEN
DOING
WITH THAT
THING?

HUH?



...BUT IF
I HAPPEN
TO FORGET,
THIS WILL
REMINDE
ME.

I
WOULDN'T
SAY I'M
TERRIBLY
FORGET-
FUL...



WE CAN
TELL YOU OUR
GRANDMAS' NAMES
AND OUR GRAND-
MAS' GRANDMAS'
NAMES DOWN
THROUGH EIGHT
GRANDMAS!

LISTEN!
SHARARE,
MARYAM,
MEHRINAZ...

WE
BELIEVE
YOU, WE
BELIEVE
YOU.
STOP.



YES
...

WELL
...

I MUST
ADMIT, YOU
HAVE...

...A
POINT.



WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
REMEMBER
IT SO THAT
YOU DON'T
FORGET?

THAT'S
WHAT
WE DO.





SFX: HIYA (NERVOUS) HIYA





BUT WE
BROUGHT
A DOCTOR
WITH US
AND EVERY-
THING!!

WHAT
!?

THAT
MAN IS A
DOCTOR,
SEEEEE!?



...EVERYTHING
ABOUT THESE
PEOPLE IS
SO STRAIGHT-
FORWARD...

...OR
PERHAPS
THEY
SIMPLY
DON'T
HESITATE
...



IT
SEEMS
...

I
CAN'T
BE
SURE,
BUT...



PLEASE,
RIGHT
THIS WAY!

THEN
YOU'RE
WELCOME!



DOCTOR
...?

HE'S A
DOCTOR!?



DAD,
THAT'S
RUDE!

YOU'RE
NOT SOME
QUACK,
ARE YOU?



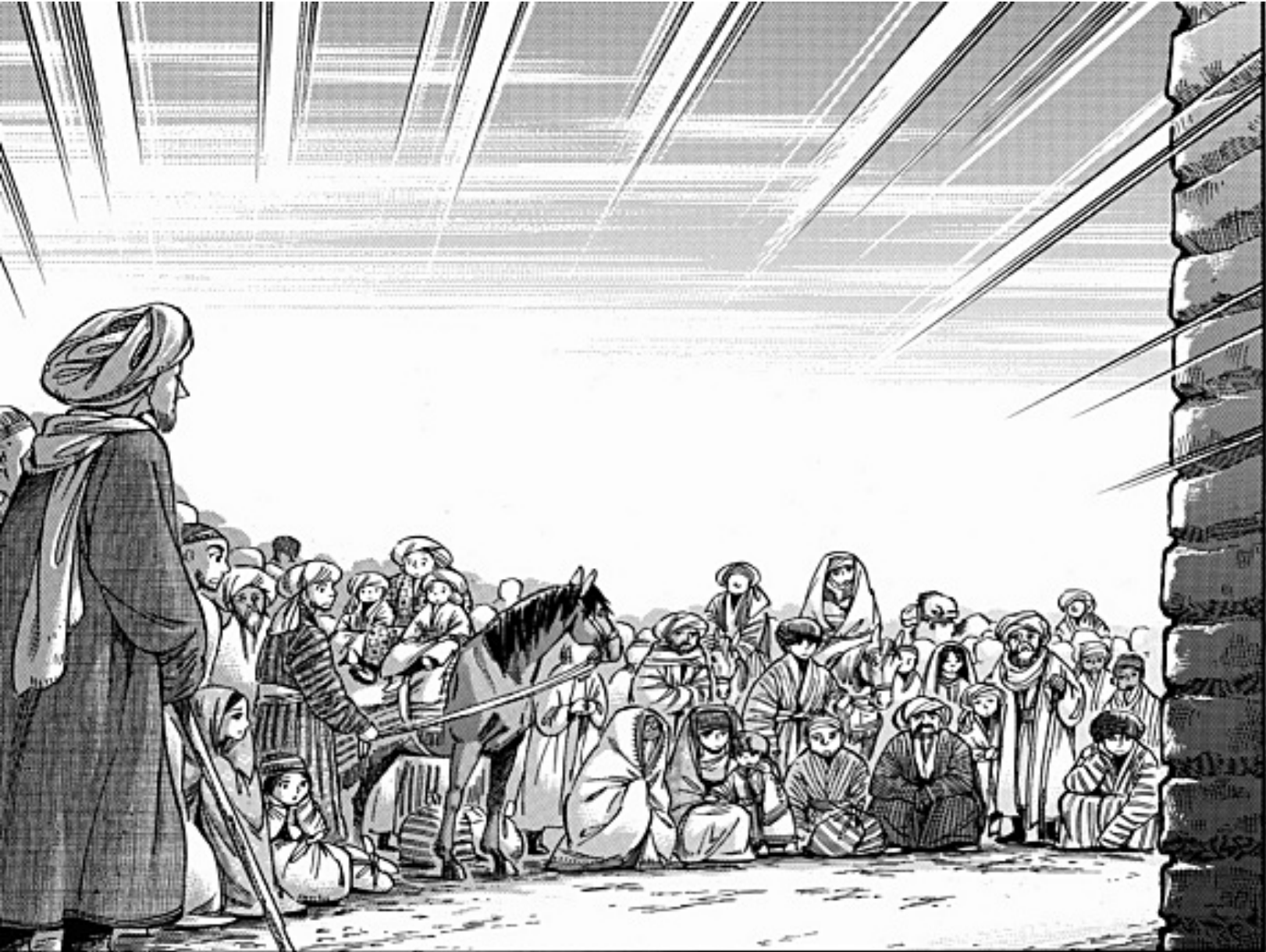
WHAT?

A
DOC-
TOR!?





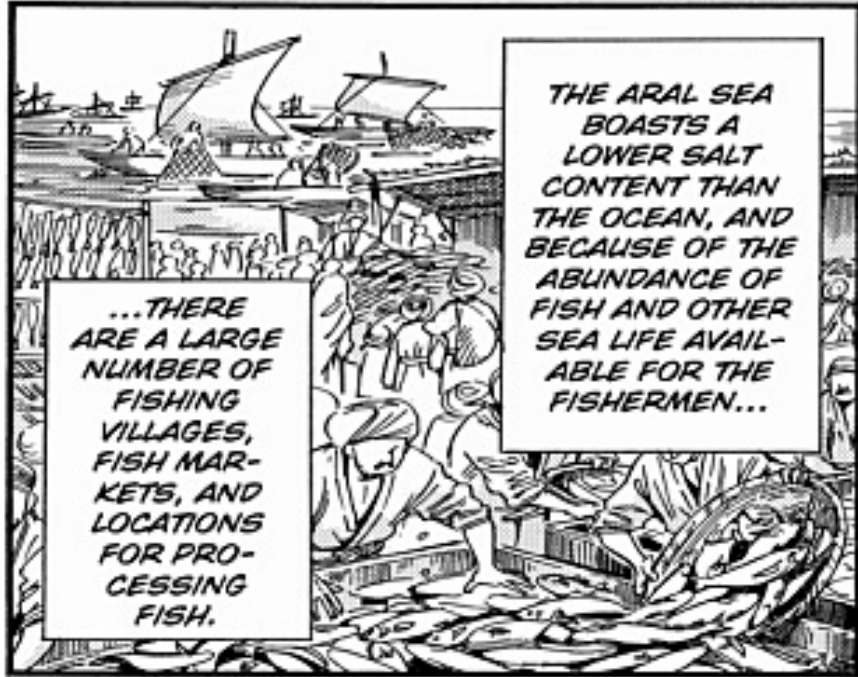






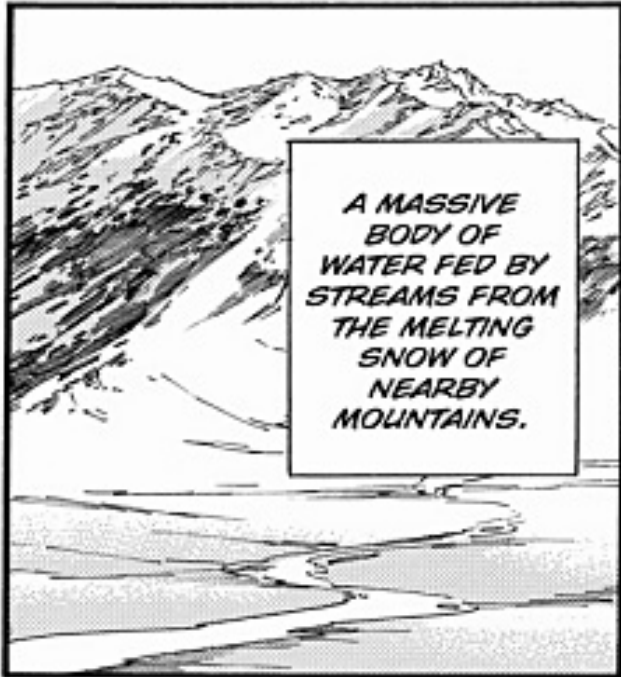
THE
ARAL
SEA...

◆ CHAPTER 20 ◆

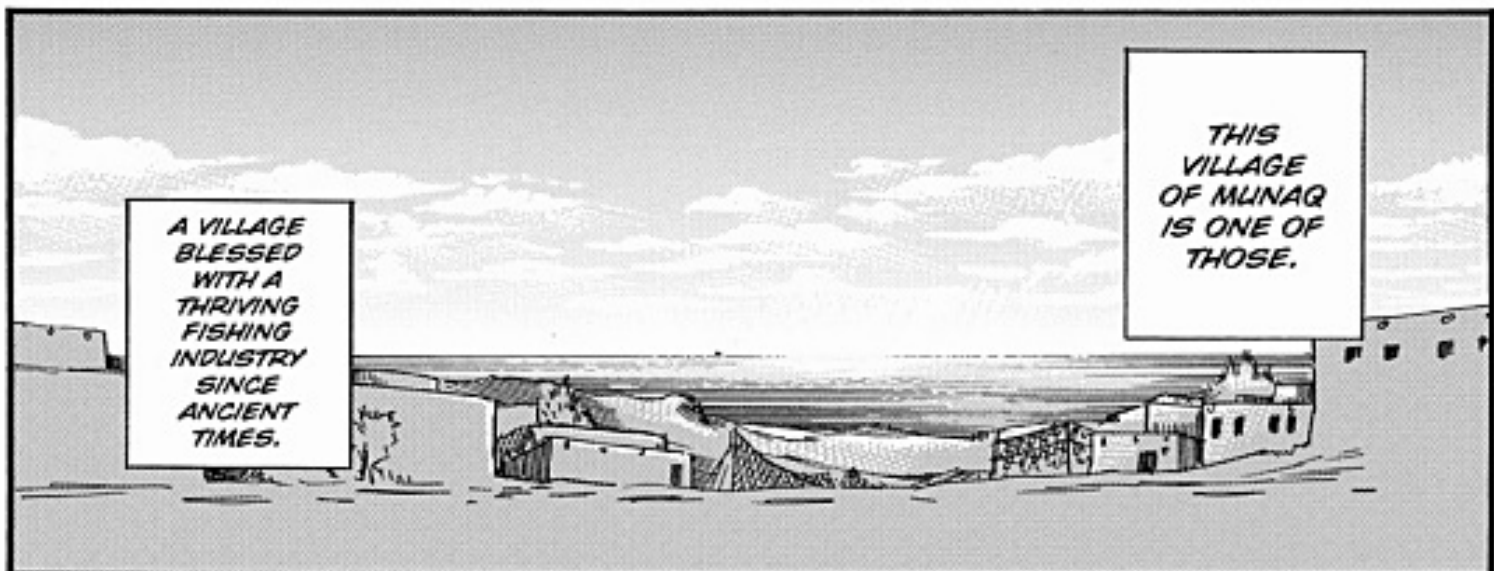


...THERE
ARE A LARGE
NUMBER OF
FISHING
VILLAGES,
FISH MAR-
KETS, AND
LOCATIONS
FOR PRO-
CESSING
FISH.

THE ARAL SEA
BOASTS A
LOWER SALT
CONTENT THAN
THE OCEAN, AND
BECAUSE OF THE
ABUNDANCE OF
FISH AND OTHER
SEA LIFE AVAIL-
ABLE FOR THE
FISHERMEN...



A MASSIVE
BODY OF
WATER FED BY
STREAMS FROM
THE MELTING
SNOW OF
NEARBY
MOUNTAINS.



A VILLAGE
BLESSED
WITH A
THRIVING
FISHING
INDUSTRY
SINCE
ANCIENT
TIMES.

THIS
VILLAGE
OF MUNAQ
IS ONE OF
THOSE.





◆
CHAPTER TWENTY
AFTER THE
BIG ONE
◆



SO
WHAT
ABOUT
HIM?

PRETTY
GOOD,
BY THE
LOOKS
OF HIM.



PLEASE,
SIR...

...I'D
LIKE TO
ASK...



UM...
PLEASE
ACCEPT
THIS AS
THANKS.

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!



AH,
THANK
YOU.

I'LL
TREA-
SURE
IT.



OH
YEAH...

...ARE
PALE AND
A LITTLE
WEAK.

NO GOOD.
PEOPLE
COMING TO
SEE A
DOCTOR...



JUST
LOOK AT
ALL OF
THEM!

BUT IF YOU
THINK OF IT
THAT WAY,
THEN NONE
OF THE
PEOPLE HERE
ARE ANY
GOOD.





**IF YOU'VE
GOT TIME TO
WORRY ABOUT
THAT FOOLISH-
NESS, GO FIND
YOUR MOTHER
AND HELP HER
OUT!!**

**GO
TALK TO
THEM
NOW!**

**MARRY
US TO
THOSE
TWO!**

**FA-
THER!
FA-
THER!**

IF HE DOESN'T HURRY, WE'LL BE OLD LADIES.

MAKES ME WONDER IF HE REALLY INTENDS FOR US TO BE MARRIED AT ALL.

I MEAN, ISN'T IT FATHER'S DUTY TO FIND GROOMS FOR US?

HMPH.

WHAT IS THAT ALL ABOUT?

NO KIDDING.

I JUST KNOW THAT ANY MAN WOULD BE THRILLED TO HAVE US AS BRIDES.

WE HAVE NO REASON TO GO INTO TOWN, AND THE FESTIVALS ARE STILL A LONG WAYS OFF.

BUT HOW DO WE DO THAT?

WHAT IS IT, LEILY?

SAY, I'VE BEEN THINKING, LAILA...

.....

.....

YOU'RE RIGHT.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S ULTIMATELY UP TO FATHER TO DECIDE...

...IT'S REALLY OUR JOB TO HELP FIND THE GROOM.



I GET IT!
IF THAT
DOCTOR HAD
BEEN A KING
OR CLAN CHIEF
OR SOME-
THING...

EXACTLY!



LIKE
WHEN WE
SAVED
THAT
DOCTOR'S
LIFE!!

!



!!

WE
COULD
SAVE
THEIR
LIVES!



AND AS IT
HAPPENS, I
HAVE SONS WHO
ARE JUST THE
RIGHT AGE FOR
MARRIAGE.

PLEASE,
HAVE YOUR
PICK...

OF COURSE,
I'LL PAY
WHATEVER
BRIDE PRICE
YOU NAME.

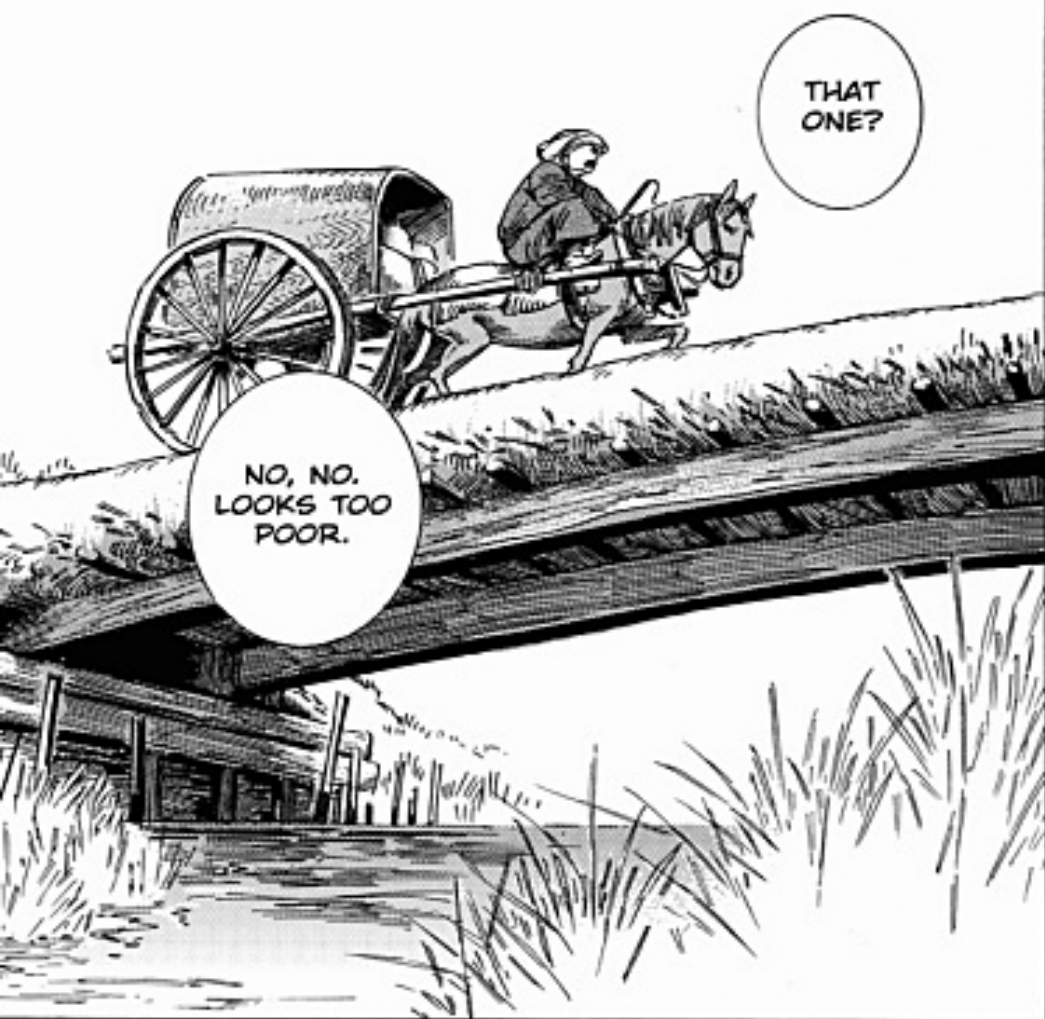


AHH...
THANK YOU,
THANK YOU,
MY BEAUTIFUL
MAIDENS!

I OWE MY
VERY LIFE
TO YOU!



THAT'S
IT!



THAT ONE?

NO, NO.
LOOKS TOO
POOR.



WHAT
WE'RE
AFTER
IS A BIG
FISH!



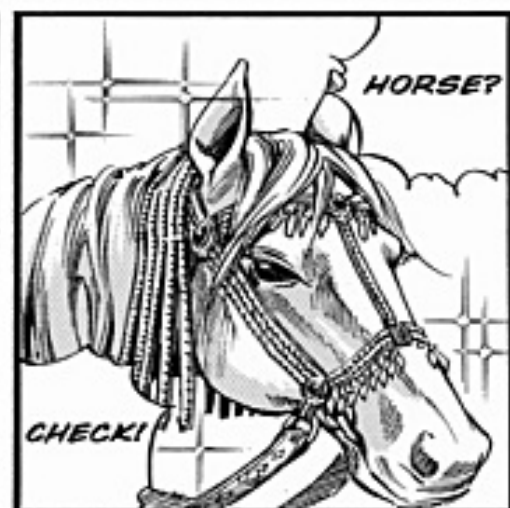
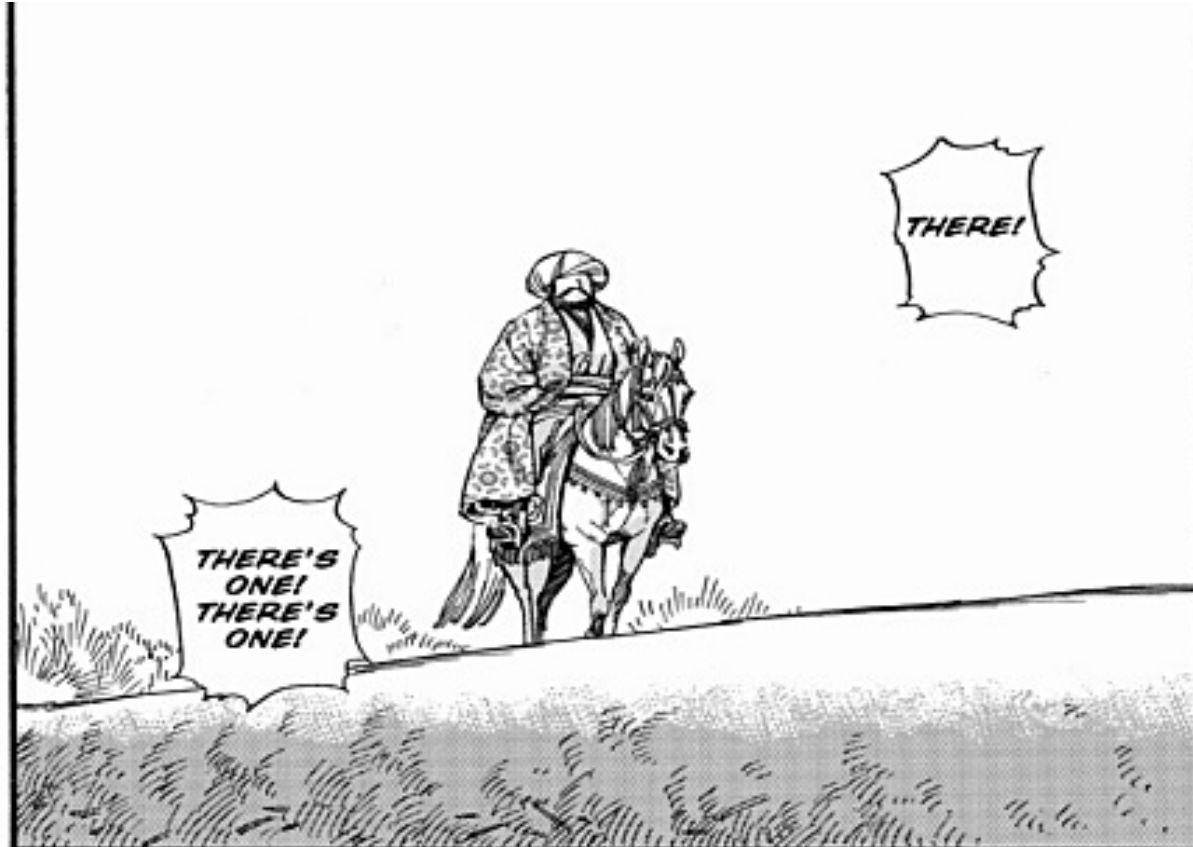
FISH?

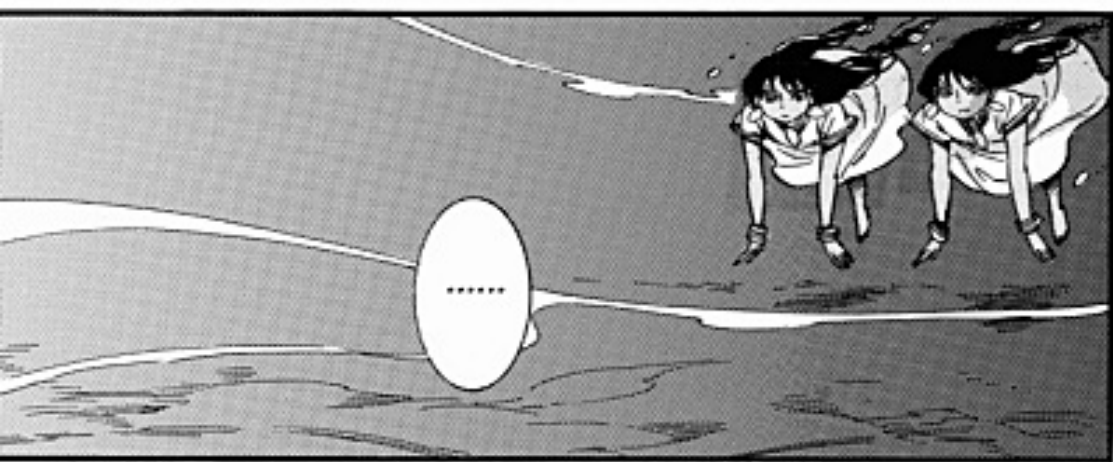
CHECK.

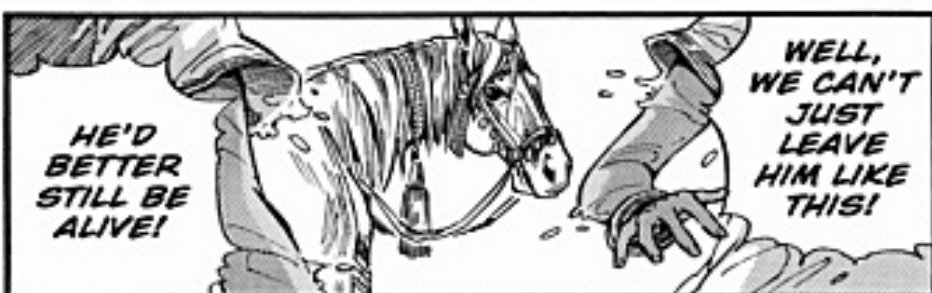


OUR
ENTIRE
FUTURE
IS RIDING
ON THIS.

WE'VE
GOT TO
CHOOSE
WITH
CARE.













OPPO-
SITE?

I
KNOW!

THE
OPPO-
SITE!



IF HE
HAD JUST
FALLEN IN
THE WATER,
EVERYTHING
WOULD HAVE
BEEN
PERFECT!

SO
WHAT DID
WE DO
WRONG?



IMAGINE
THAT
SOMEBODY
DISCOVERS
ONE OF US
PASSED OUT
ON THE
ROAD.



WHAT
WE HAVE
TO DO IS
GET OUR-
SELVES
RESCUED!

OUR
MISTAKE
WAS TO TRY
TO RESCUE
HIM!



AND
NATURALLY,
THE MAN
WOULD STAY
SEVERAL DAYS
AS FATHER'S
GUEST.

THANK
YOU!
THANK
YOU!

FATHER
WOULD
HAVE TO
OFFER HIS
THANKS.



MY, WHAT
WONDERFUL
DAUGHTERS
YOU HAVE!

AS IT
HAPPENS, I
HAVE SEVERAL
SONS JUST
COMING INTO
MARRYING
AGE...



.....



WHAT COULD
POSSIBLY
BE WRONG,
FAIR MAIDEN?
PLEASE, OPEN
YOUR EYES...

IF YOU
COULD BUT
ESCORT ME
HOME...

AH,
FORGIVE
ME.

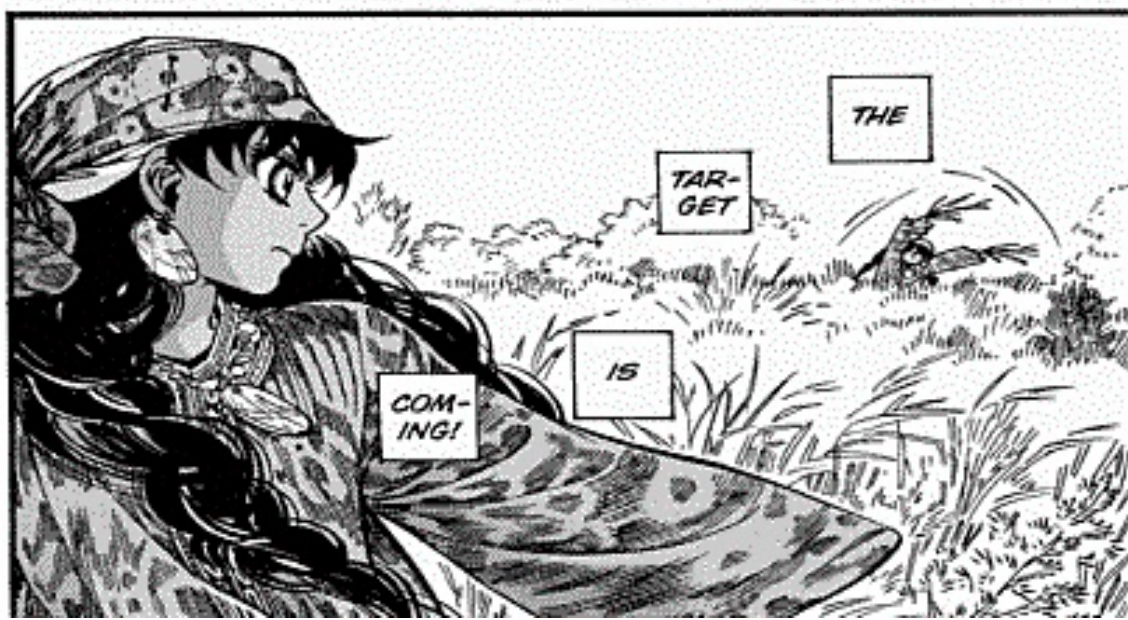
NOT
BAD.

.....

AND LAILA,
YOU GO BE
THE ONE
PASSED OUT
IN THE
ROAD!

GOT IT,
LEILY!

LISTEN!
I'LL SEND
YOU THE
SIGNAL!



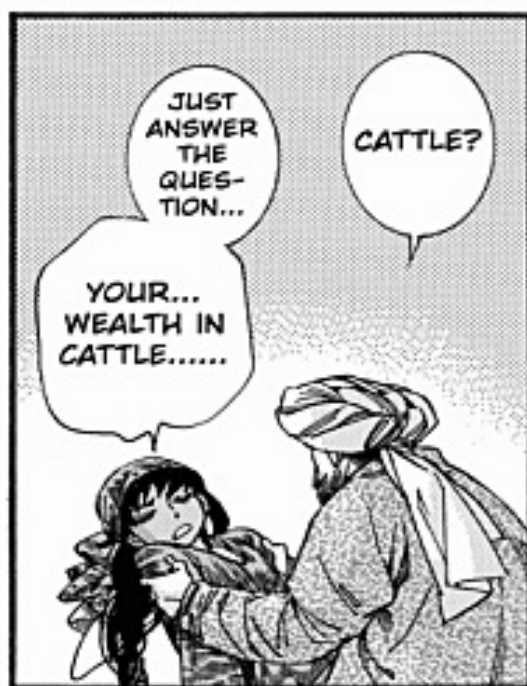
THE

TAR-
GET

IS

COM-
ING!







AHH!
STOP!
STOP!
WHERE
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
GOING!?

YOU
MUSTN'T
OVER-
EXERT
YOUR-
SELF!



ALL TOLD,
ABOUT
THREE
HUNDRED
HEAD.

NOT
NEARLY
ENOUGH.

ANY-
THING
LESS
THAN A
THOU-
SAND.
AND...



I HAVE
A FEW
CAMELS,
SHEEP,
AND
GOATS.

HOW
...

...
MANY
...?



I'M
FINE!
JUST
FINE!

YOU
HAVE A
COM-
PANION?

LISTEN,
THIS YOUNG
WOMAN IS
NOT FEELING
WELL AT ALL!



WELL
!?

DID
EVERY-
THING
GO AS
PLANNED
!?

NOT
EVEN
CLOSE!
THIS ONE
WAS NO
GOOD!



WAIT
A
MIN-
UTE!

NOW
GET ON!
GET ON!

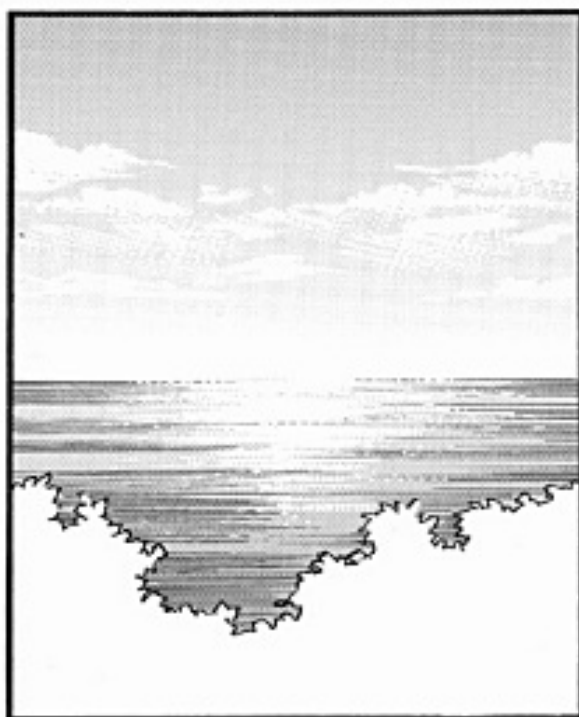


I SAID
I'M
FINE!

DON'T BE
HASTY!
YOU COULD
HAVE A
RELAPSE!

AS IT
HAPPENS, I
WAS JUST
ON MY WAY
TO VISIT A
DOCTOR WITH
AN EXCELLENT
REPUTATION!
I'LL BRING
YOU THERE
WITH ME!







PASHA
(SPLASH)

I WONDER
IF HE'S
REALLY
THINKING
ABOUT IT.

FATHER'S
NEVER SAID
A SINGLE
WORD TO US
ABOUT IT.

AT OUR AGE,
WOULDN'T A
FATHER NORMALLY
HAVE GOTTEN
SOME OFFERS?



TOPI
(SPLISH)

WHAT'LL
HAPPEN IF HE
NEVER DECIDES
ON GROOMS
FOR US?



I CAN
SEE HOW
A FATHER
WOULDN'T
WANT TO BE
PARTED WITH
HIS SWEET,
YOUNG
DAUGHTERS,
BUT...

FATHER'S
TOO GREEDY
AND WANTS
US ALL TO
HIMSELF.



BOTH OF
US WILL
MAKE LOTS
AND LOTS OF
MONEY!

THAT'S
GOOD!



...AND
YOU CAN
STAY AT
MY INN!



YEAH,
GOOD
IDEA!

THEN I'LL
OPEN AN
INN FOR
CARAVAN-
NERS...



THEN
I'LL JUST
START A
CARAVAN...

...AND
GET
REALLY,
REALLY
RICH!

OKAY, IF
HE DOESN'T
FIND GROOMS,
THAT'S WHAT
WE'LL DO!



...I
UNDERSTAND
HOW GIRLS
YOUR AGE
MIGHT BE
ANXIOUS...

WELL,
NOW...



RIGHT,
GRAND-
MA!

...I HAD
ALREADY
GIVEN BIRTH
TO YOUR
FATHER.

WHY,
WHEN
I WAS
YOUR
AGE...



I'M SURE
THERE HAVE
BEEN SO MANY
OFFERS THAT
FATHER IS
HAVING TO
TURN PEOPLE
AWAY...!

NOW,
NOW...
HOLD
ON...



ISN'T
IT WEIRD
THAT
IT'S
TAKING
SO
LONG!?

ANYBODY
WOULD BE
THRILLED
TO HAVE US
AS BRIDES,
RIGHT?



...YOU DON'T ANSWER HIM STRAIGHT AWAY...

OH, YOUNG LADY! WOULD YOU MIND IF I DREW SOME WATER FROM YOUR WELL TO WATER MY CAMEL?

FOR EXAMPLE, IF A MAN COMES ALONG AND ASKS YOU SOMETHING...

YOU TWO TEND TO BE A LITTLE TOO LOUD.

RE-SERVED?

IF YOU WANT MEN TO FALL FOR YOU, YOU'LL HAVE TO BE MORE RESERVED.

IN OTHER WORDS, BEING PUSHY ISN'T THE ONLY WAY.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER METHODS TO GET WHAT YOU WANT.

...AND ONLY THEN DO YOU ANSWER.

BE MY GUEST.

INSTEAD, YOU REMAIN SILENT AND GAZE AT HIM WITH GLISTENING EYES FOR AS LONG AS IT IS POLITE TO DO SO...

WHO IS THAT?

THERE'S NOT A MAN ALIVE WHOSE HEART WOULDN'T MELT AT THAT.

...SO HE TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT AND MARRIED HER?

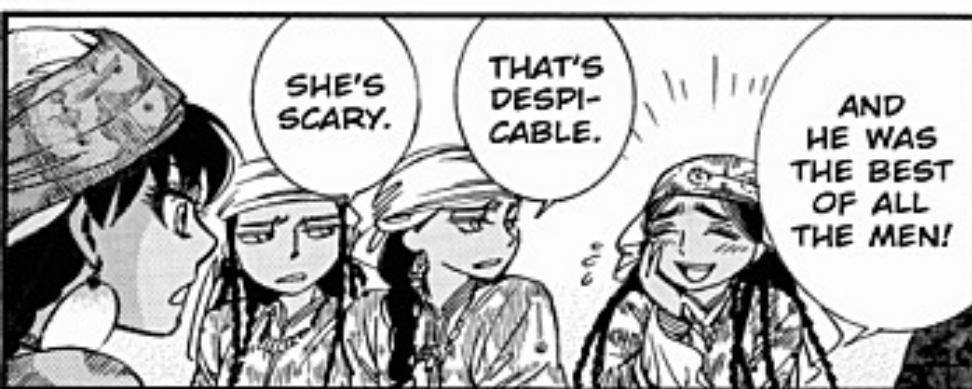
DIDN'T UNCLE SAY THAT HE TOUCHED SORAYA'S HAIR...

NOW DON'T START WITH THAT!

EXACTLY. COME TO THINK OF IT...

NO, HOW'D IT HAPPEN?

...DO YOU KNOW HOW SORAYA AND HER HUSBAND WERE MARRIED?





JUST
LEAVE
EVERY-
THING
TO YOUR
FATHER!

IT'S
VULGAR
FOR THE
WOMAN
TO TAKE
THE LEAD
IN THESE
MATTERS!



I ALWAYS
KNOW
EXACTLY WHAT
YOU TWO ARE
THINKING.

DON'T
YOU DARE
THINK OF
COPYING
HER.



MOTHER,
WHAT?

HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT?

STOP
THAT!
NOT IN
FRONT OF
THE CHILD-
REN!

...YOU
WEREN'T
EXACTLY A
SHRINKING
VIOLET
YOURSELF!

YOU MAY
SAY THAT,
BUT...



...YOU
HAVE ME
IN A
CORNER...

ALL
RIGHT...
LISTEN...



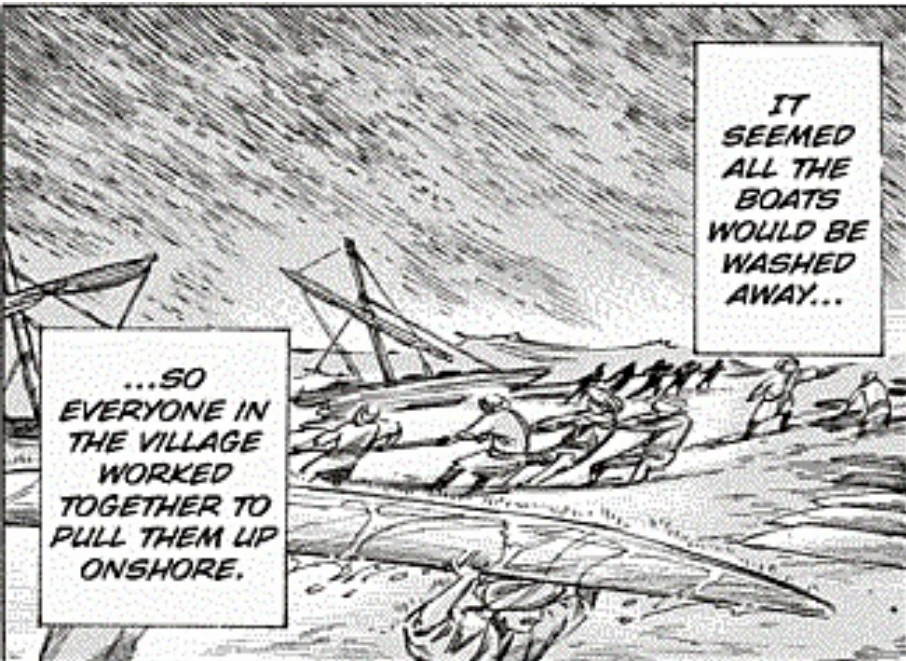
RIGHT!
WE'RE
ADULTS
NOW!

SO
TELL US
WHAT
HAP-
PENED!



THERE AT
AN AGE
WHERE
THEY CAN
HEAR IT.

WHAT'S
THE HARM?
GO AHEAD
AND TELL
THEM.



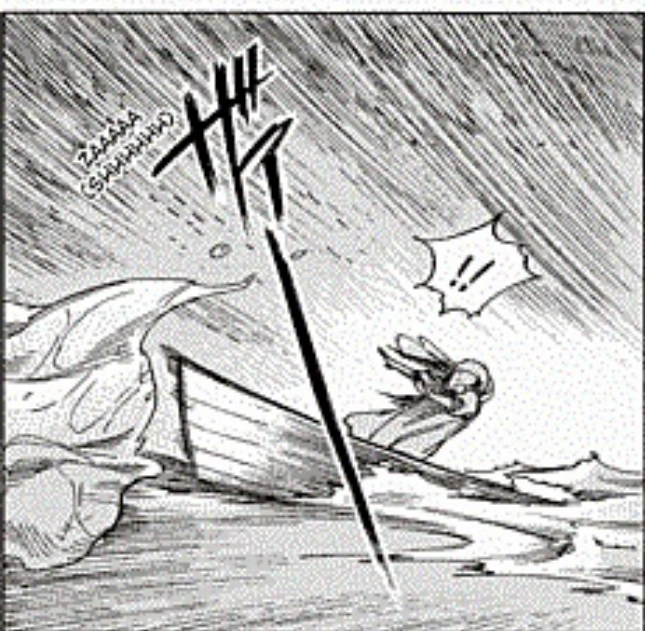
...SO
EVERYONE IN
THE VILLAGE
WORKED
TOGETHER TO
PULL THEM UP
ONSHORE.

IT
SEEMED
ALL THE
BOATS
WOULD BE
WASHED
AWAY...



IT WAS A
DAY I'LL
NEVER
FORGET...
TWENTY
YEARS
AGO...

THE DAY
OF A
HUGE
TYPHOON
...



...I
FORGOT
TO TETHER
MY BOAT
TO SHORE.



I WAS
TRYING
TO HELP
TOO...
...BUT I
WAS IN
SUCH A
PANIC...



I MUST
HAVE BEEN
CAUGHT
ON SOME
DRIFTWOOD
OR SOME-
THING...

BUT
LUCK WAS
WITH ME,
AND I
STOPPED.



DRIFT-
ING
OUT TO
SEA!

SHE'S
DRIFT-
ING
AWAY!

A
A
A
H!

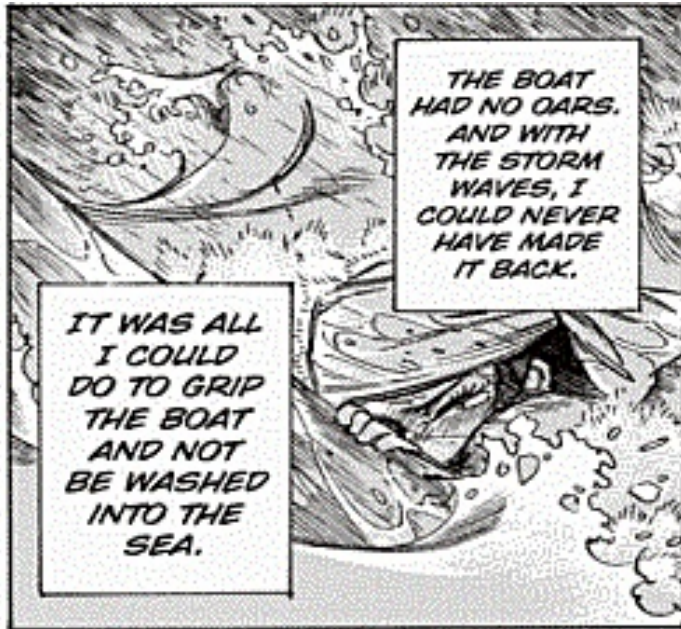
MOTH-
ERRR!



I'M
COMING
TO GET
YOU!

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

THAT'S
WHEN YOUR
FATHER
CAME TO MY
RESCUE.



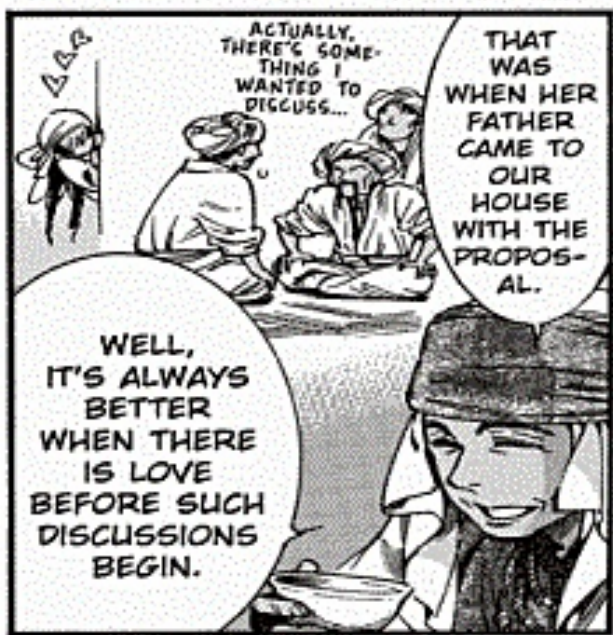
THE BOAT
HAD NO OARS.
AND WITH
THE STORM
WAVES, I
COULD NEVER
HAVE MADE
IT BACK.

IT WAS ALL
I COULD
DO TO GRIP
THE BOAT
AND NOT
BE WASHED
INTO THE
SEA.



...I
MELTED
RIGHT
THERE!

HE WAS
JUST
SO, SO
STRONG
AND
HEROIC...



ACTUALLY,
THERE'S SOME-
THING I
WANTED TO
DISCUSS...

THAT
WAS
WHEN HER
FATHER
CAME TO
OUR
HOUSE
WITH THE
PROPOS-
AL.

WELL,
IT'S ALWAYS
BETTER
WHEN THERE
IS LOVE
BEFORE SUCH
DISCUSSIONS
BEGIN.



...AND
LIFTED THE
ENTIRE
BOAT AND
CARRIED
IT TO
SHORE.

HE CAME
RUSHING
OUT,
IGNORING
THE WIND
AND RAIN...



DON'T
SULLY
YOUR
MOTHER'S
FOND
MEMO-
RIES!!

YOU
TWO
BE
QUIET
!!

DON'T
YOU HAVE
ANYTHING
WE CAN
USE
NOW?

WE
CAN'T
WAIT
AROUND
FOR SOME
GREAT
STORM.

THAT
DOESN'T
HELP US
ONE BIT!



A CHARM!?

...HOW
ABOUT I
TEACH YOU
TWO A CHARM
THAT NEVER
FAILS?



.....
NOW,
LET'S
SEE...

SO BE
SURE TO
GATHER
EACH AND
EVERY
THING I
TELL YOU.



NOW LISTEN
CAREFULLY.
YOU HAVE TO
GATHER THE
NECESSARY
MATERIALS.

IT'S A
CHARM THAT
WILL ENSURE YOU
FIND THE BEST
GROOMS AND
HAVE THE MOST
WONDERFUL
WEDDINGS.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



THE
BIG
ONES,
YOU
HEAR?

AND
ONE FULL
BAG OF
SHRIMP.



THEN
YOU'LL
NEED
ONE FULL
BASKET
OF SHELL-
FISH.

FIRST,
YOU'LL
NEED TEN
TROUT
FROM THE
RIVER.



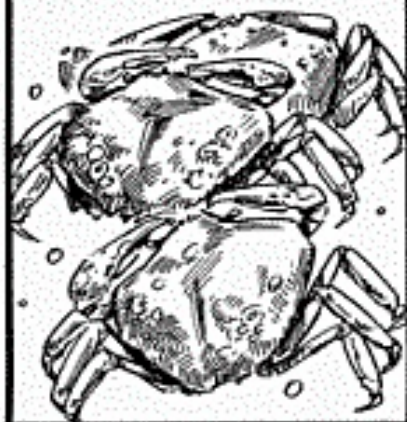
WELL,
THAT'S
WHAT
GRAND-
MOTHER
SAID.

DO YOU
REALLY THINK
ALL THIS
WILL MAKE AN
EFFECTIVE
CHARM?



A BAG
FILLED
WITH
ABA-
LONE.

A
BASKET
OF
CRABS.



STUR-
GEON
EGGS!

REMEM-
BER?

UM...
THERE
WAS ONE
MORE
THING...

BUT THEY
DON'T LAY
EGGS NOW,
DO THEY?
IT'S AFTER,
RIGHT!?

NOT
YET!

GET
ONE?







THAT'S
RIGHT!
WE'RE
HELPING
OUT!

WE'RE
HELP-
ING!!

W-

WELL,
THAT'S
A RARE
SIGHT.



HMM?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

IT'S TIME
TO START
PREPARING
DINNER.



I ALMOST
FORGOT. IF
YOU TELL
OTHERS
ABOUT THE
CHARM, IT
LOSES ITS
POWER.



NOW
CALL
EVERY-
ONE.

**DINNER'S
READY!**



BOIL
WATER
AND PUT
IN THE
TEA TO
BREW.



LAY OUT
THE DINNER
CLOTH AND
SET THE
DISHES.



THAT'S
PERFECT.
GO FETCH
US SOME
WATER.

AND
MINCE UP
ALL THE
VEGETA-
BLES.



IS IT A
SPECIAL
DAY?

WHAT
IS THIS?
IT'S LIKE A
FEAST!



OH??



.....



DELI-
CIOUS!

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
OF THE
TASTE?

OF
COURSE
IT IS! SOUP
IS ALWAYS
BETTER
WHEN YOU
ADD SOME
SHRIMP OR
SHELLFISH
TO IT.

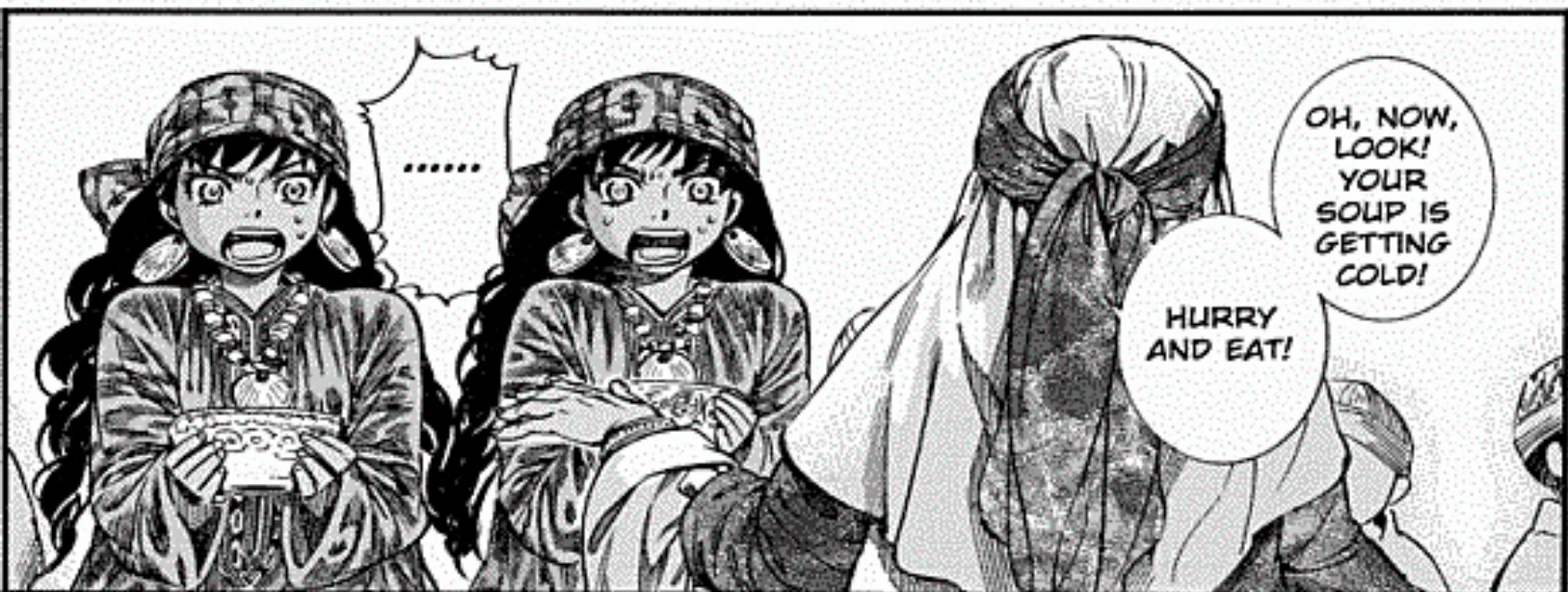


WHAT'S
THIS
"CHARM"
BUSI-
NESS?



WHAT
ABOUT
THE
CHARM
!?

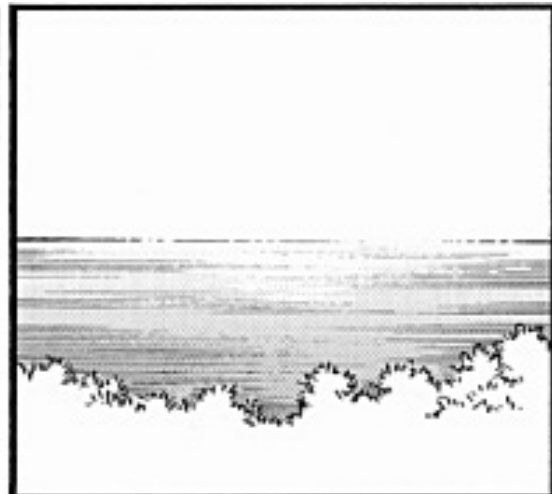
THIS IS
NOTHING
MORE
THAN A
REGULAR
DINNER!





...WHAT DO
YOU SUPPOSE
IT MEANS THAT
WE HAVEN'T
FOUND SUITORS
YET?

WITH
ALL THESE
MEN IN THE
WORLD...





SERI-
OUSLY.

IT'S
JUST SO
WEIRD.



WHAT,
LEILY?

SAY,
LAILA?



MORE
OR LESS.

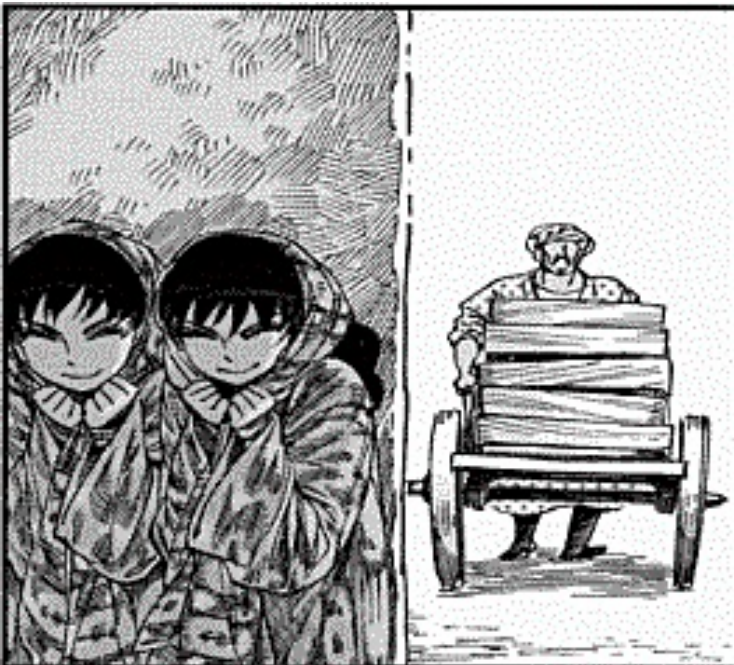
I'M
THINKING
BASICALLY
THE SAME
THING.

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
I'M THINKING
RIGHT NOW?

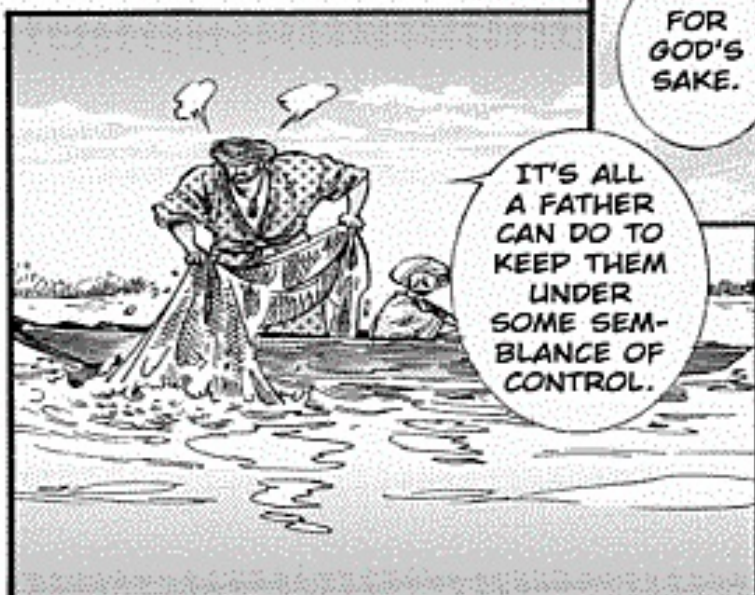


















WHY CAN'T YOU PAY ME BACK WITH A FREE BRIDE PRICE!?

BACK WHEN YOU COULDN'T CATCH A FISH, I SPLIT MY CATCH WITH YOU!

WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I'M TRYING TO FIND BRIDES FOR MY BOYS EVEN WHEN I'M BROKE! THAT'S WHAT A FATHER IS!

WELL, IF YOU'VE GOT A BETTER OPTION OUT THERE, THEN CHOOSE THEM!



WHAT!?

SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE AFTER ALL ALONG!?

TRYING TO PROD FOR MY WEAK SPOTS!



GRR ...

...YOU WENT AND DROPPED MY BEST FISHING EQUIPMENT AND GOT IT ALL WASHED AWAY DOWN-RIVER!

WHAT YOU SAY MAY BE TRUE, BUT...



WELL ...

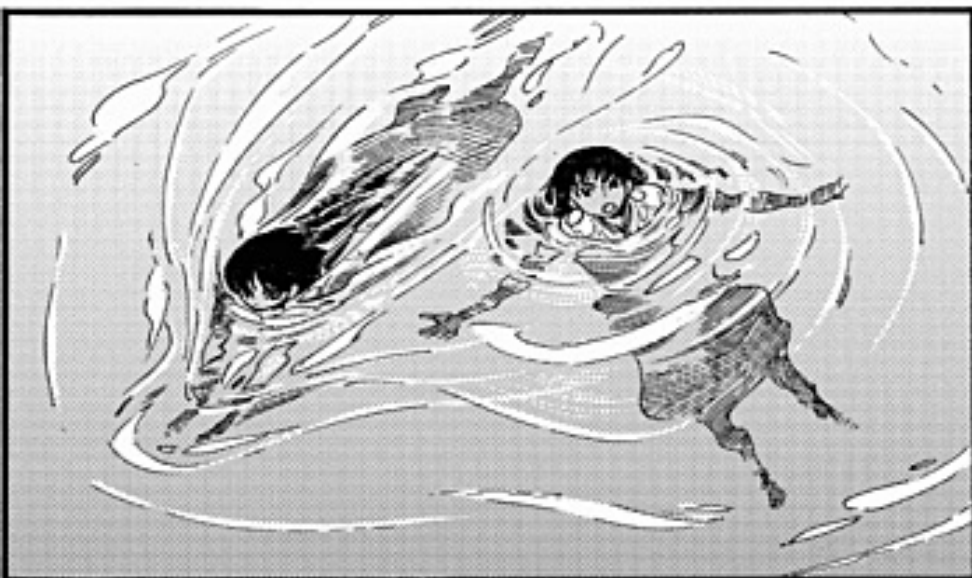


BESIDES, YOU WENT AND RAMMED MY NEW BOAT!

THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT, AND YOU KNOW IT!



BUT YOU WENT AND SMASHED MY HANDCART TO PIECES, DIDN'T YOU!?





WE
CAUGHT
MORE
THAN WE
EXPECTED,
HUH?

MAYBE WE
SHOULD GO
BACK?



◆ CHAPTER 21 ◆



...COULD
YOU
GATHER
THINGS
UP OVER
THERE?

SAMI...



WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
FATHER,
AFTER
ALL.

WHO
KNOWS?

SARM,
I'VE BEEN
WONDER-
ING...

...WHAT-
EVER
HAPPENED
TO THAT
NEW BOAT
WE WERE
PROMISED?





GEEZ,
COME
ON, FA-
THER...

HEY,
DON'T
SLEEP ON
THE NET.

YOU'LL
DAMAGE
IT.



IT
WOULD
BE TOO
MUCH
WORK,
RIGHT?



I CAN
HARDLY
IMAGINE
ONE OF THEM
BECOMING
MY WIFE.

I CAN'T
IMAGINE
IT YET
EITHER.



I WISH
FATHER
WOULD'VE
WORKED
A LITTLE
HARDER ON
FINDING
BRIDES.

THEY'RE
JUST
TOO CON-
VENIENT.

I MEAN,
LAILA
AND
LEILY...



THE ONLY
PERSON HE
MIGHT GET A
DEAL ON THE
BRIDE PRICE
FROM IS THOSE
TWO GIRLS'
FATHER,
RIGHT?



BUT I
THINK
I CAN
UNDER-
STAND.



THAT WAY,
WHEN I HAVE
KIDS, I CAN PAY
A DECENT BRIDE
PRICE FOR THEIR
BRIDES.

I'VE
GOTTA
MAKE
SOME
MONEY.

GOOD
PLAN.
GO
DO IT.



SAMI,
DO YOU...

...REALLY
HATE THOSE
TWO THAT
MUCH?



I MEAN, I
KNOW THEM
AS WELL AS
I KNOW ANY-
BODY...

IT ISN'T
LIKE I HATE
THEM OR
ANYTHING.



PRETTY
MUCH THE
SAME.

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
SAMI?



NOT
REALLY
SURE
HOW TO
PUT IT.

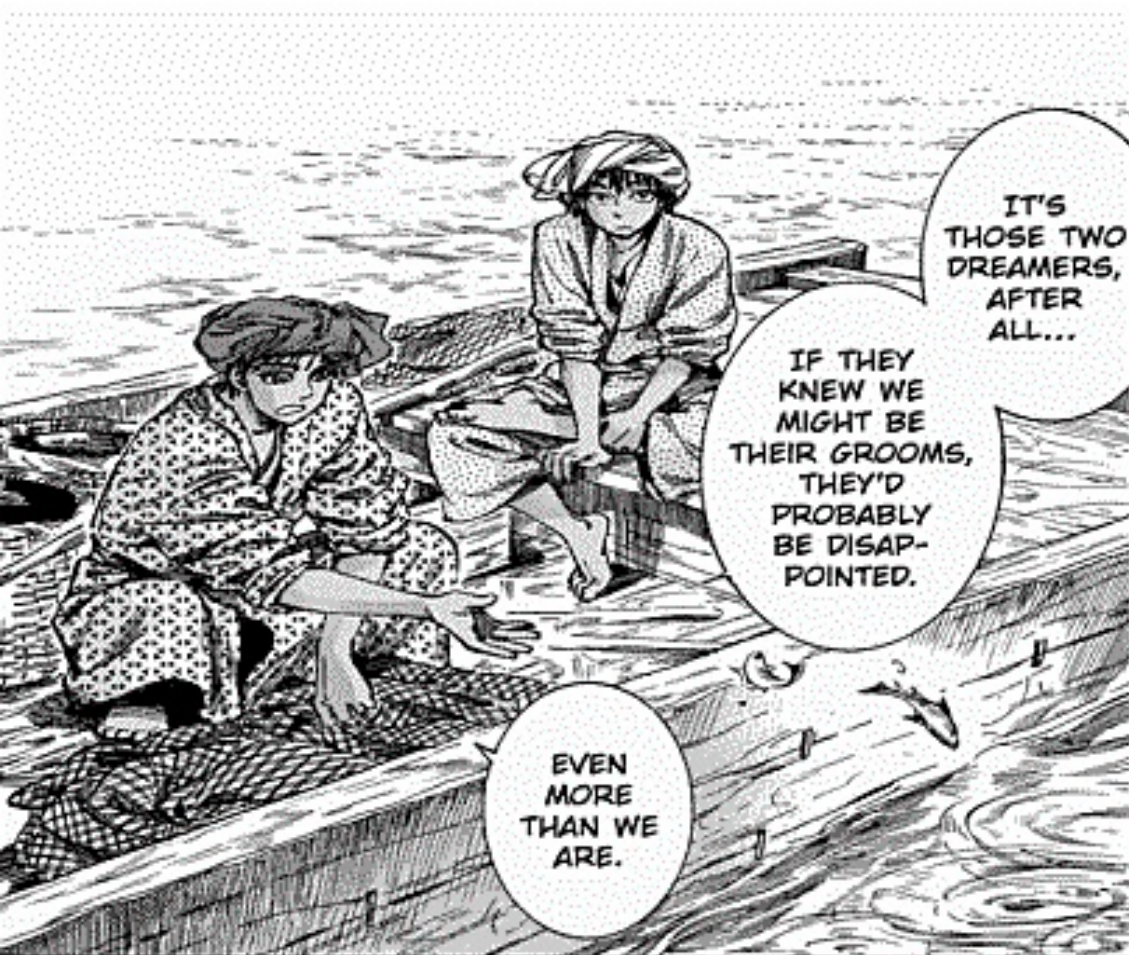
BUT I'M
NOT
EXACTLY
EXCITED
ABOUT
IT.



WHAT'S
THAT
ABOUT
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

I'M NOT
CONFIDENT
I'LL BE ABLE
TO FALL IN
LOVE WITH
EITHER OF
THEM.





◆
CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE
POSSIBILITIES FOR
THE TWINS
◆









WE
THOUGHT
WE'D BE ABLE
TO MARRY
SOMEBODY
WHO'D...

...DO
ANY-
THING
WE
SAY!

THAT'S
A
PRETTY
AWFUL
DREAM.

KNEW
THAT'S
WHAT
THEY'D
BE
THINK-
ING,
THOUGH.



SOMEBODY
GOOD-
LOOKING
WITH LOTS
OF SHEEP!

SOME-
BODY
ATHLETIC!
SOME-
BODY
RICH!



YOU
HAVE A
PROBLEM
WITH
US AS
BRIDES!?

A BIT
CLOSER
!?
WHAT'S
THAT
MEAN!?

LIKE
I SAID,
DON'T
TAKE IT
OUT ON
US.



...BUT
I COULD
HAVE DONE
WITH SOME-
BODY A BIT
CLOSER TO
MY IDEAL
WOMAN.

NOT THAT
WE WERE
SETTING OUR
SIGHTS TOO
HIGH...



LOOK...

...IT'S THE
SAME FOR
US, YOU
KNOW.



NO! YOU'LL
TELL THE
WORLD
ABOUT IT!

WHEN
DID YOU
SAY THAT!?
TELL ME!
SPIT IT
OUT!



I
ONLY...

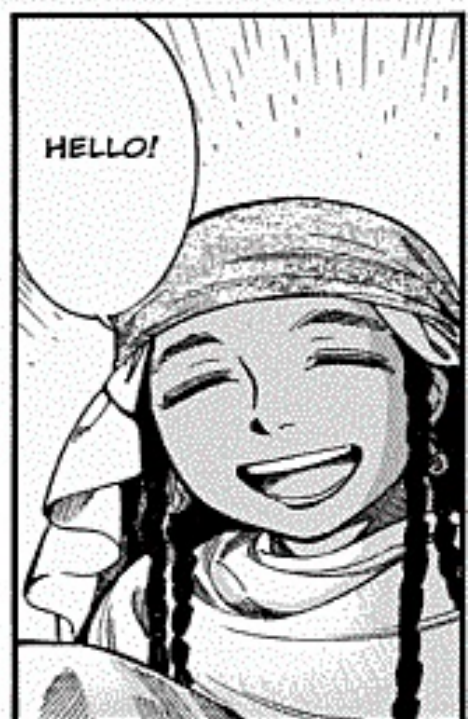
...I SAID
THAT
ONCE
A LONG
TIME
AGO!

HOW
LONG DO
YOU HOLD
ONTO
THOSE
MEMO-
RIES!?

HE ONLY
LIKES GIRLS
WHO'VE GOT
A HUGE RACK,
RIGHT?

OH
YEAH.
I KNOW
ALL
ABOUT
SAMI.

EH?
IS
THAT
RIGHT
?





HMM...

IT ISN'T THAT I'M UNWILLING TO PUT FORTH A PRICE THAT BEFITS THE OCCASION, BUT...



WELL, I KNOW WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS, BUT...

...IN ANY CASE, LET'S START WITH THE BRIDE PRICE.



OF COURSE, IT'S MY FULL INTENTION TO PROVIDE A SPLENDID WEDDING CEREMONY.

TRUST ME, NO ONE WILL FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.



WE ARE IN A SIMILAR POSITION, HAVING PREPARED ALL OF THE FURNISHINGS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR THEIR HOME.

...IF THE PRICE IS TOO LOW, I WOULD FEEL SORRY FOR MY DAUGHTERS.

WE WOULDN'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY FINANCIAL STRAIN, BUT...

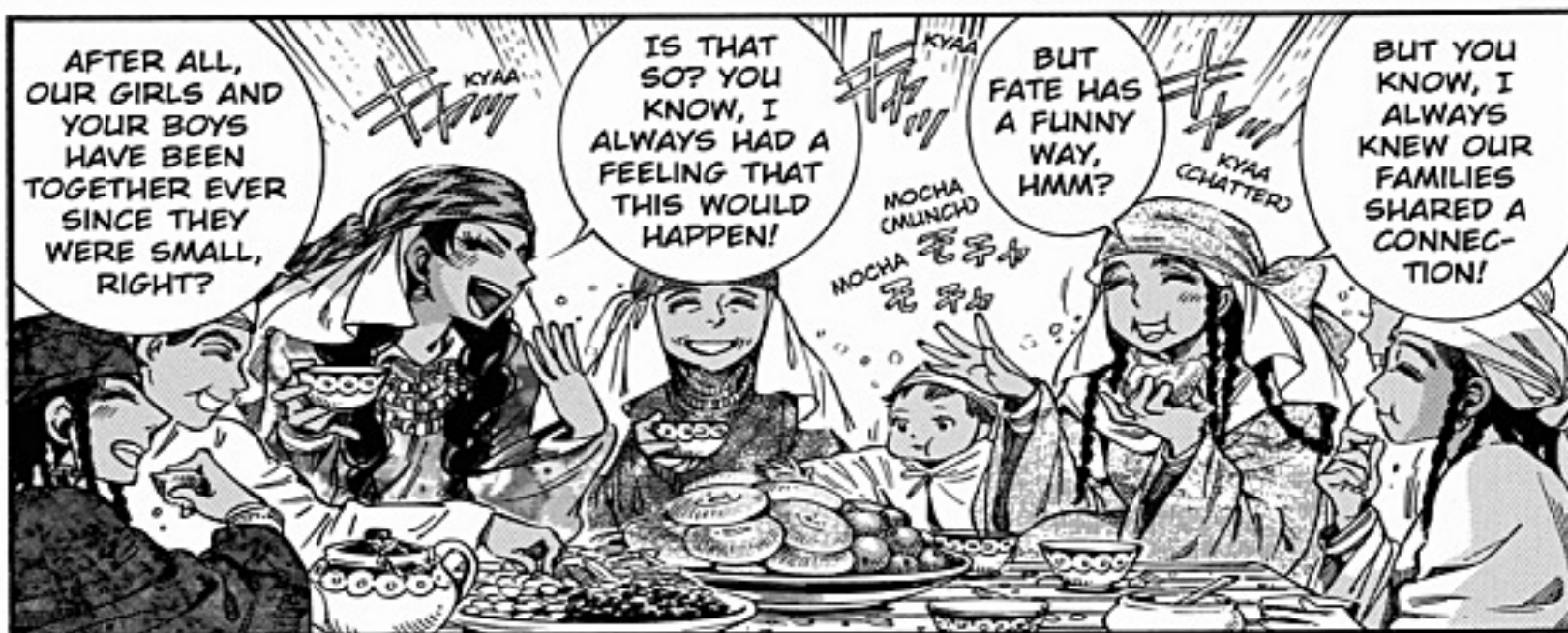


...BUT THAT'S ABOUT THE LIMIT OF WHAT WE CAN OFFER.

...SOME RICE, SOME SHEEP...

...WE WILL BE COVERING THE COST OF THE CEREMONY, SO...

OF COURSE. OF COURSE.



AFTER ALL, OUR GIRLS AND YOUR BOYS HAVE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE THEY WERE SMALL, RIGHT?

IS THAT SO? YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS HAD A FEELING THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

BUT FATE HAS A FUNNY WAY, HMM?

BUT YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS KNEW OUR FAMILIES SHARED A CONNECTION!

KYAA
MOCHA (MUNCH)
MOCHA

KYAA (CHATTER)



IT IS WHAT EVERY FATHER WANTS, TO PUT THE MONEY INTO A CEREMONY THAT ANYONE WOULD FIND DECENT.

THIS IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR MY BOYS.

AND I MUSTN'T SACRIFICE THAT MONEY.

YES.

HEAR, HEAR.



IT CANNOT SIMPLY BE DONE AWAY WITH.

NO, NO, NO. THE BRIDE PRICE BECOMES A PART OF THEIR LIFELONG INHERITANCE.

MM.

MM-HMM.



I COULD SAY THE SAME OF YOU. AREN'T YOU GRASPING A BIT TOO MUCH?



IT'S A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT, RIGHT? DON'T YOU THINK THAT SOUNDS A BIT MISERLY?



PLEASE, EVERYONE! EAT UP!

MY, HOW DIFFICULT THIS MUST BE!

AH! WHY, THAT'LL REALLY HIT THE SPOT!

OH, DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELVES!









WHY
DON'T YOU
EACH PAIR
OFF WITH
ONE OF THE
BOYS AND
DISCUSS
SEPARATE-
LY?

THERE
ARE THINGS
YOU'LL ONLY
BE ABLE TO
FIND OUT
WHEN YOU'RE
APART.



AT ANY
RATE, WE
CAN'T JUST
SAY THAT IT
DOESN'T
MATTER WHO'S
PAIRED WITH
WHOM.

YOU FOUR
HAVE TO
DECIDE ON A
PARTNER.



AFTER THAT,
YOU CAN
CHOOSE WHICH-
EVER YOU LIKE
THE BEST.



...HOW
ABOUT WE
START OFF
LIKE THIS?

LET'S
SEE...



FARSAAMI
WITH LEILY.



SARMAAN
WITH LAILA.



WHERE
SHOULD
WE GO?

SO
WE'VE
BEEN
KICKED
OUT?



I FEEL
LIKE
FISHING,
PERSON-
ALLY.

HOW
CAN YOU
EVEN THINK
OF FISH-
ING WITH
ME RIGHT
HERE!?



TO
SEE THE
STREET
PERFORM-
ERS!

I WANT
TO GO
INTO
TOWN!

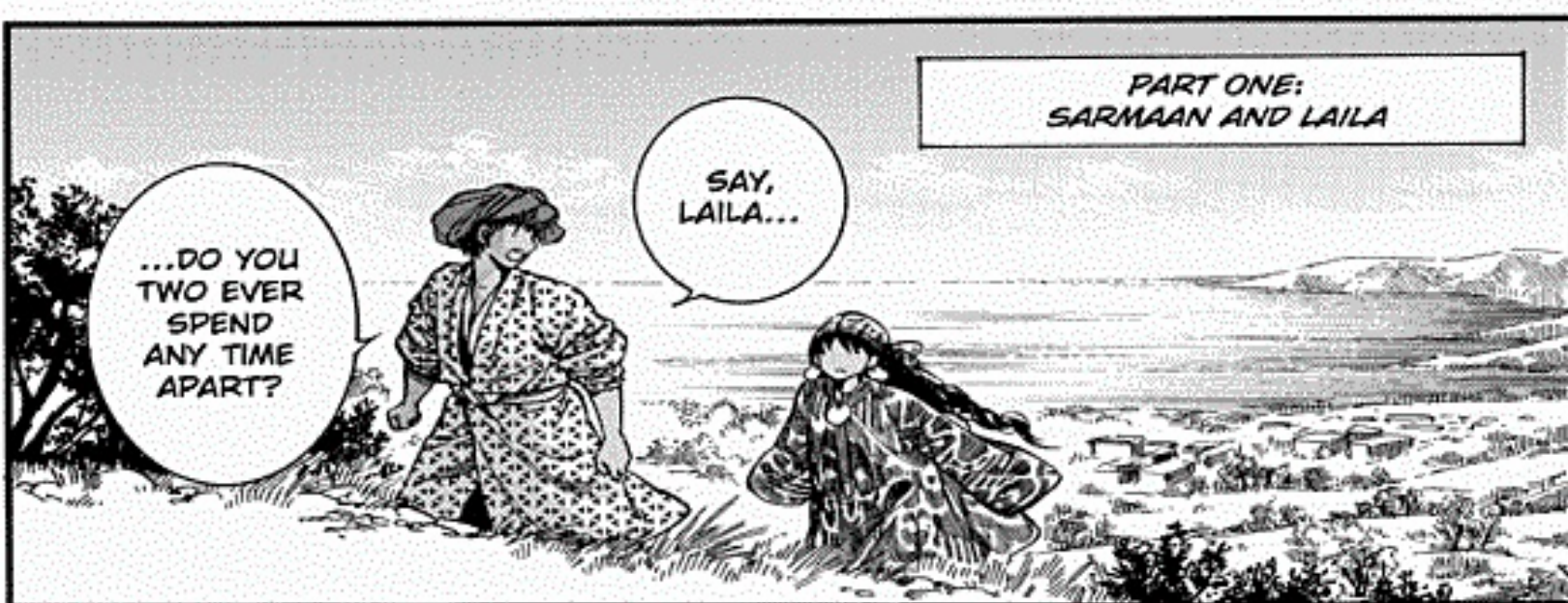
SO
YOU JUST
WANNA
HAVE
FUN?



HAVE
FUN, YOU
KIDS!

DON'T
YOU DARE
LAY A
HAND ON
THOSE
GIRLS
YET!

FATHER
...









SO FOR A
LONG TIME,
I'VE BEEN
WANTING TO
CLIMB IT.

I KEEP
SEEING THIS
TREE FROM
THE SEA.



...LAILA,
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING UP
THERE?



SARM!

WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR? GIVE
ME A LIFT!

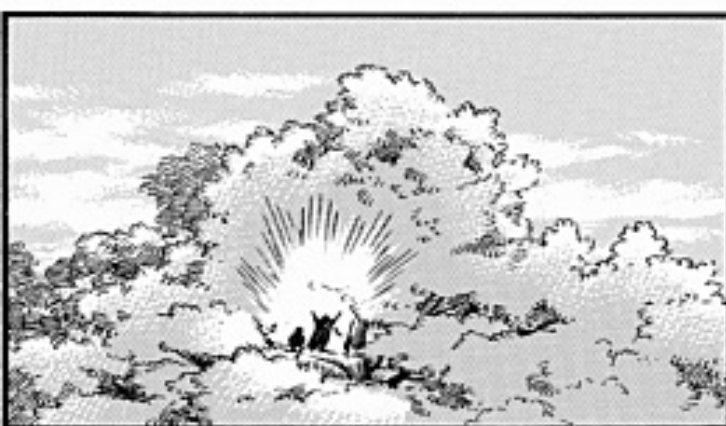




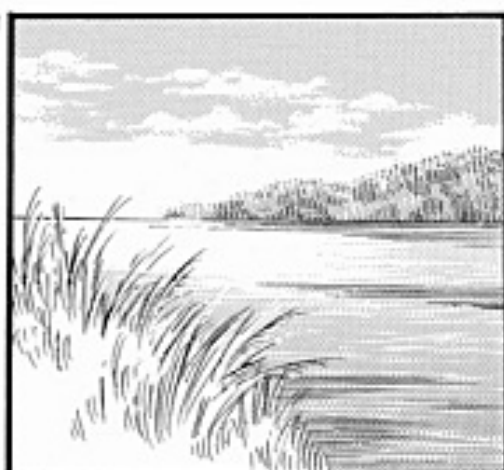




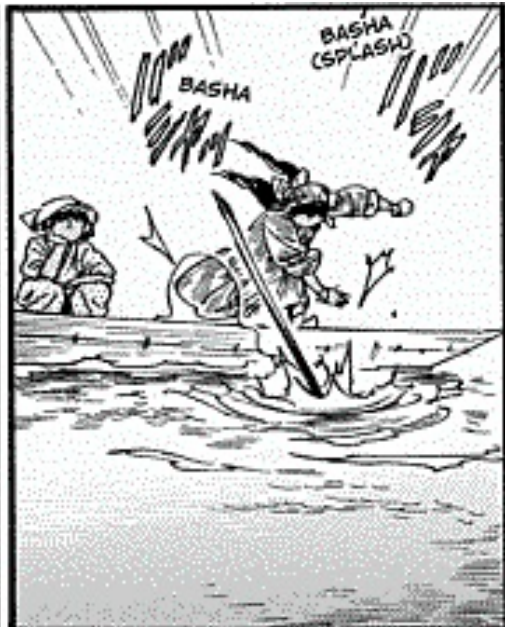
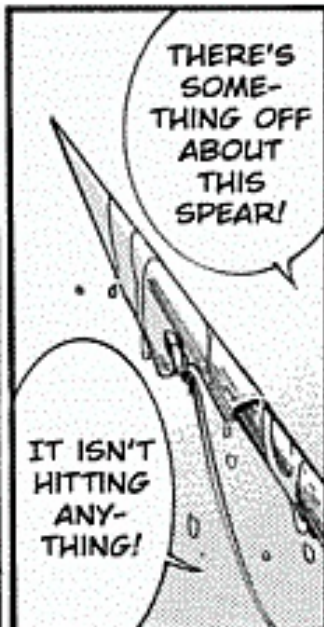




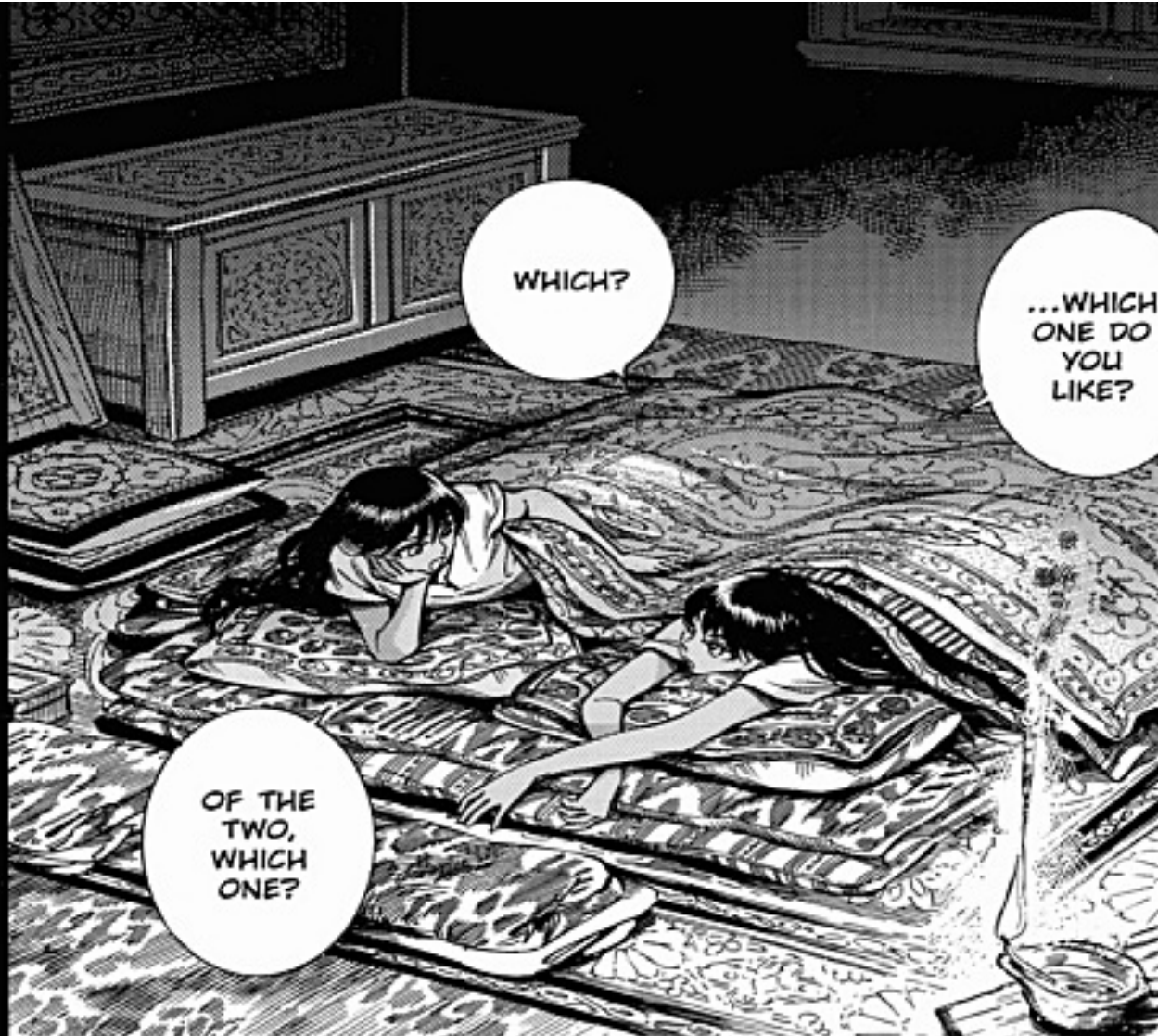












WHICH?

...WHICH
ONE DO
YOU
LIKE?

OF THE
TWO,
WHICH
ONE?



SAY,
LAILA...



IF I
HAD TO
CHOOSE, I'D
PROBABLY
PICK SAMI.



HMM...
IF I HAD
TO MAKE A
CHOICE, I'D
PROBABLY
SAY SARM.



IT'S DIVIDED
PERFECTLY!



THAT'S
AMAZ-
ING!









SARM?



THEN THEIR
FATHER AND I
WILL DISCUSS IT
TOMORROW.

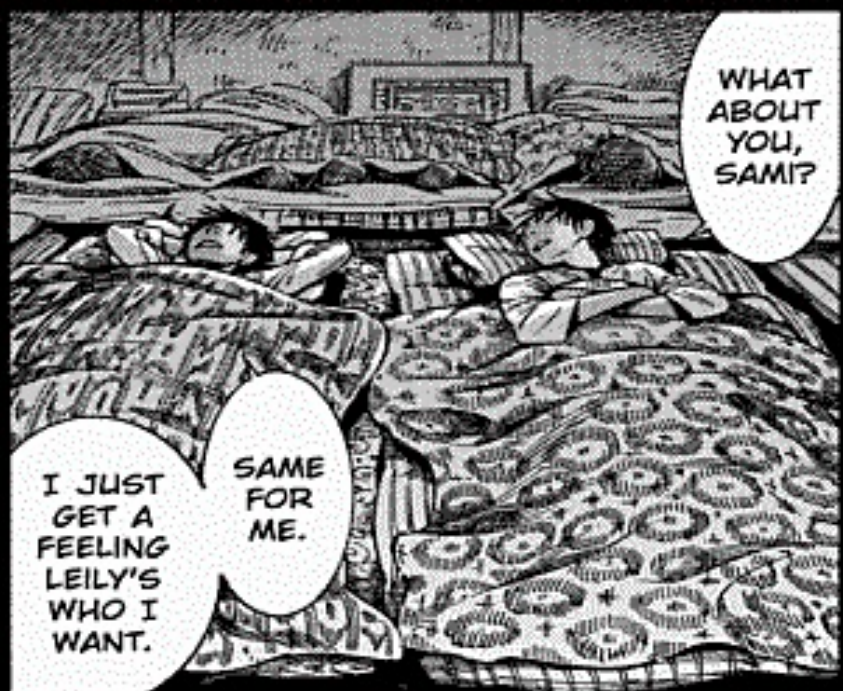


...WELL...
JUST A
FEELING.



WHY
LAILA?





WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
SAMI?

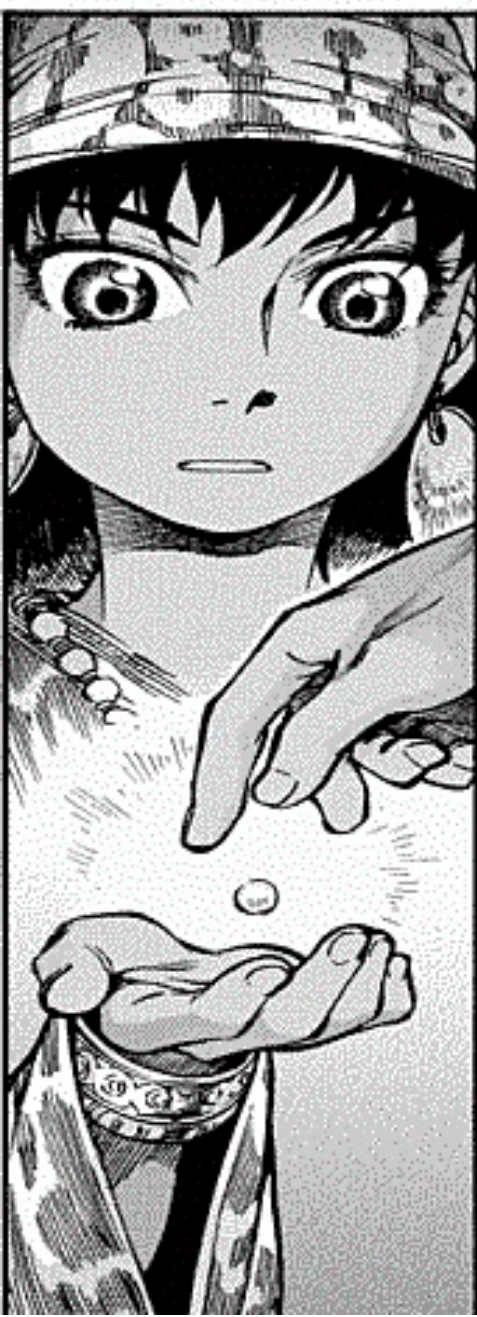
I JUST
GET A
FEELING
LEILY'S
WHO I
WANT.

SAME
FOR
ME.













OH,
AND THE
ACRO-
BATS!

SOMEDAY
I'D LIKE TO TRY
THE SWINGS
AND FERRIS
WHEEL AGAIN
TOO!



THERE
WERE SO
MANY STREET
PERFORM-
ERS...



...BUT
THOSE
MUSICIANS
AND DANCERS
WERE THE
MOST FUN.



NO,
I HAD
FUN.

AND I
BOUGHT
SOME NEW
WAGON
WHEELS
TOO.

IT'S BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE I'VE
BEEN TO
TOWN.



IS
THAT
RIGHT?

I'M
HAPPY
YOU HAD
A GOOD
TIME.



WHAT
!?

DIDN'T
YOU
HAVE
ANY
FUN!?







MM...
A SPOT
A LITTLE
WAYS
AWAY.



OH,
YOU
KNOW.

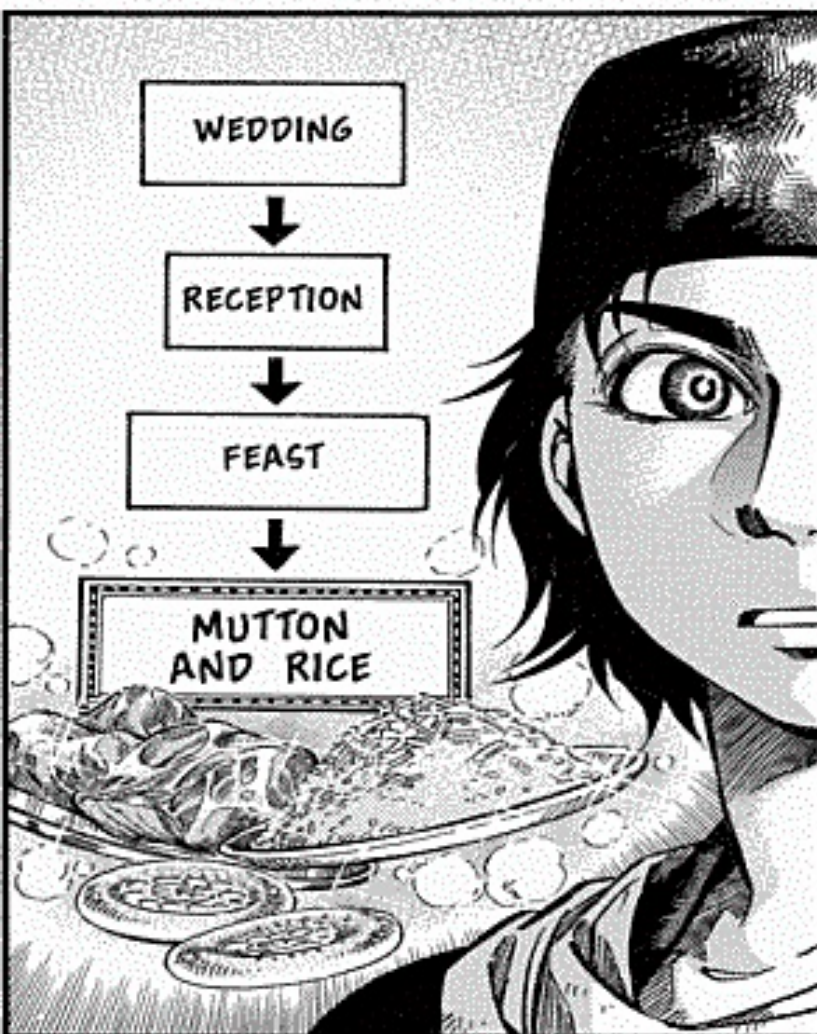












YOUR
WEDDING
DAY IS
ALMOST
HERE.

IF IT'S
ABOUT THE
LOW BRIDE
PRICE,
WE'VE
ALREADY
HEARD.

IT ISN'T
MUCH, BUT
WHAT CAN
WE DO?

WHAT
IS IT,
MOTHER?

...BUT
BEFORE
THAT...

...AS YOUR
MOTHER,
I HAVE
SOMETHING
TO SAY TO
YOU.

MOTHER
.....

IT'S
GOING TO
BE A SAD
PARTING.

IT'S
NOT
THAT.

EVER SINCE
YOUR MARRIAGE
PLANS WERE
SET, I'VE BEEN
THINKING...

THAT'S
RIGHT!
WE'LL BE
LIVING
REALLY
CLOSE
BY!

OH NO!
DON'T CRY!
WE'LL COME
BY AND SEE
YOU EVERY
NOW AND
THEN!

BUT...

BUT IT
ALSO MAKES
ME HAPPY
TO KNOW
THAT YOU'VE
BECOME FINE,
UPSTANDING
WOMEN.

I AM
SO GLAD
YOU'VE
GROWN TO
BE THIS
BIG AND
HEALTHY.

...THE
TIME WE
HAVE LEFT
TOGETHER
IS VERY
SHORT.

RIGHT!
JUST
LEAVE
EVERY-
THING
TO US!

OH,
DEFI-
NITELY!

I'VE TRIED
TO USE EVERY
OPPORTUNITY TO
INSTRUCT YOU,
BUT I WONDER IF
YOU RETAINED MY
TEACHINGS.

IN
ADDITION
TO THOSE
FEELINGS,
I HAVE A
WORRY.

WILL YOU
BE ABLE TO
FULFILL YOUR
ROLE AS
WOMAN
OF THE
HOUSE?

BE
QUIET!

...AND
MOST OF
ALL, FOR
YOUR OWN
SAKES...!!

AND TO
ENSURE
THAT NO
SHAME
IS CAST
ON OUR
HOUSE...

...OR THE
HOUSES
THE TWO
OF YOU
WILL BE
RUNNING
IN THE
FUTURE...

YOU MAY
THINK YOU
KNOW WHAT
IT TAKES...

...BUT
LOOKING AT
YOU AS A
MOTHER,
YOU HAVE A
LONG WAY
TO GO.



YOU WILL
NOW BEGIN
A CRASH
COURSE
IN BRIDE-
HOOD!!

YOU WILL
DO AS I
SAY, AND I
WILL HEAR
NO COM-
PLAINTS!!

HHHHH!?

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO
A CRASH COURSE
IN BRIDEHOOD



WE WANT EVERYBODY TO TALK ABOUT WHAT BEAUTIFUL BRIDES WE ARE!!

AND IF WE DO THAT, WE'LL BE EXHAUSTED BY THE WEDDING!



WE REALLY DON'T NEED ANY MORE TRAINING, MOTHER! RIGHT!



THE WAY WE LOOK, DEFINITELY.

THE WAY WE LOOK, RIGHT?

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT? THE WAY YOU LOOK ON ONE DAY OR YOUR SUCCESS IN THE REST OF YOUR LIVES?



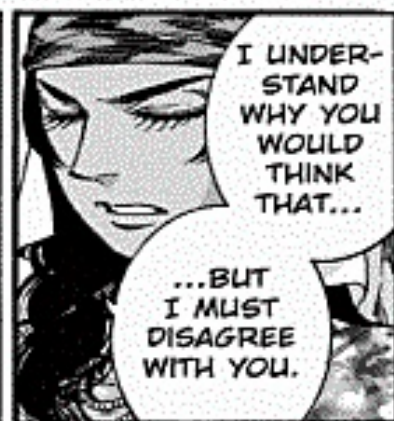
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!



YOU MUST BECOME WOMEN WHOM OTHERS CAN RESPECT.

YOU MUST DO YOUR DUTIES AS WIVES AND MOTHERS.



I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD THINK THAT...

...BUT I MUST DISAGREE WITH YOU.



I'M ONLY DOING THIS WITH YOUR BEST INTERESTS IN—



DAN CHANG





EVEN WHEN TIMES ARE PLENTIFUL, YOU SERVE JUST ENOUGH TO FILL EVERYONE'S STOMACHS WITHOUT WASTE.

COOKING COMPETENCE IS A MINIMAL REQUIREMENT FOR THE JOB.



LISTEN CLOSELY.

PREPARING THE DAILY MEALS IS THE MOST BASIC OF BASICS.



FIRST, COOKING!!



PAY NO MIND TO THAT.

MOTHER, WHAT'S THIS?

CONSIDER IT AN ACCESSORY.



MOTA

MOTA (SCRAMBLED)



MOTA

MOTA



W-
WE CAN DO THAT!

RIGHT! IT'LL BE EASY!



SO TO BEGIN WITH, I WANT THE TWO OF YOU TO COOK ONE SERVING OF STEWED VEGETABLES AND ONE SERVING OF FRIED MEAT.

HUH?



I'VE SHOWN YOU HOW MANY TIMES BEFORE, RIGHT?

YOU CAN DO THAT, RIGHT?



THERE'S SO MUCH MORE THAT YOU HAVE TO ATTEND TO!

IT ISN'T JUST ABOUT COOKING FOOD, YOU KNOW!



YOUR WORK IS SLOPPY !!



DON'T GO DUMPING OUT THE WATER!!



BASHAAA (BLOOSH)

AH!!



FIRST, YOU HAVE TO BRING THE WATER TO A BOIL!!



THEN CUT THE VEGETABLES IN PREPARATION FOR COOKING!



HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU NOT TO COOK THE FRIED FOOD FIRST?!

IT'LL GET COLD BEFORE IT'S EATEN!!



AND ONE THING YOU SHOULDN'T FORGET...

...BE SURE TO COOK A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU NEED.



...BUT REMEMBER THAT A GUEST COULD COME TO EAT AT ANY TIME...

YOU BASE THE AMOUNT ON THE NUMBER OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS COMING TO EAT...



A DROP OF WATER IS LIKE A DROP OF BLOOD!

CONSIDER ANYONE WHO WASTES WATER AS A PERSON WHO HAS NO RESPECT FOR LIFE!



IT'S AN
IMPORTANT
PART OF YOUR
JOB TO KEEP
YOUR HOME
BEAUTIFUL AND
SPOTLESS.

A
CLUTTERED
HOUSE
MEANS A
CLUTTERED
SOUL.



**CLEAN-
ING!!**



WHAT'S
THERE
TO LEARN
NOW?

MOTHER!
WE DO
CLEANING
EVERY
DAY!



WHAT?

MOBU
もぐ (MUMBLE)



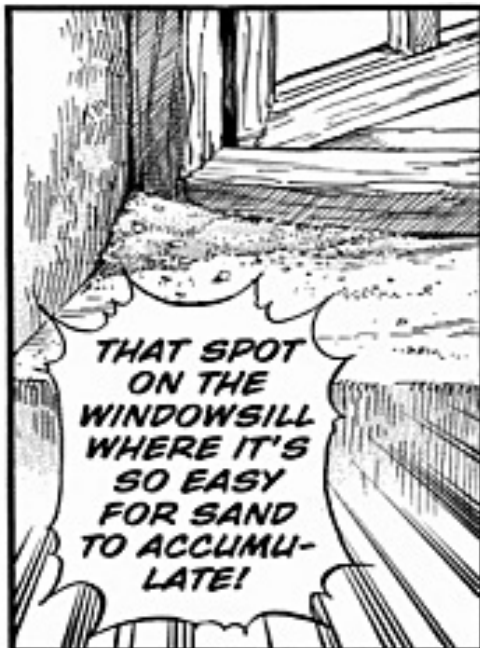
...SO THERE
ARE SOME
PLACES
FREQUENTLY
NEGLECTED IN
YOUR DAILY
REGIMEN!

DON'T
BE
NAIVE!!

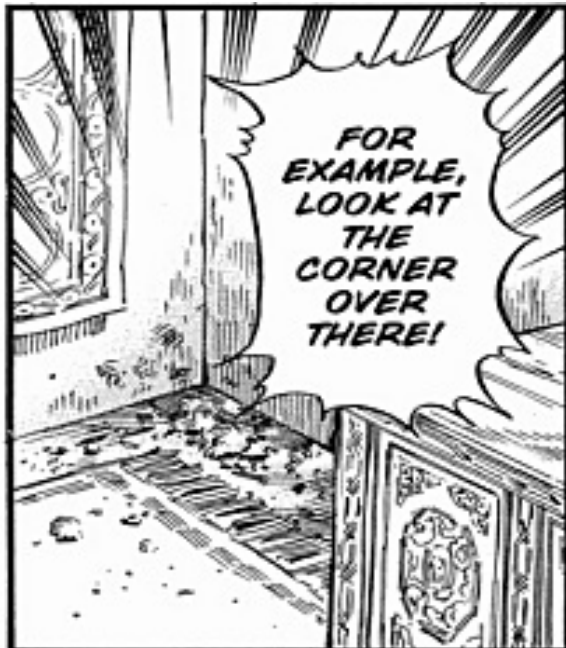
BECAUSE
YOU DO IT
EVERY DAY,
YOU DON'T
PAY CLOSE
ENOUGH
ATTENTION...



**AND
DON'T
FORGET
THE MESS
UNDER
THE
STAIR-
CASE!**



**THAT SPOT
ON THE
WINDOWSILL
WHERE IT'S
SO EASY
FOR SAND
TO ACCUMU-
LATE!**



**FOR
EXAMPLE,
LOOK AT
THE
CORNER
OVER
THERE!**



**OF COURSE,
YOU CLEAN THE
PLACES YOU CAN
SEE, BUT YOU MUST
THOROUGHLY CLEAN
IN THE PLACES THAT
AREN'T USUALLY
SEEN.**

**TAKE
SPECIAL
CARE WITH
THE PLACES
WHERE
FOOD HAS
FALLEN.**

**THAT
IS WHAT
ATTRACTS
THE ANTS!**



**THE SAME
HOLDS
TRUE FOR
STRAIGHT-
ENING UP
THE ROOM.**



**MAKE
SURE THE
CORNERS
OF YOUR
QUILTS
ARE
ALIGNED!**



**TAKE
CARPETS
OUT AND
BEAT THE
DUST OUT
OF THEM
ONCE A
WEEK!**



**PLACE THE
CUSHIONS
YOU AREN'T
USING
IN THEIR
PROPER
PLACES!**





IF THE TIME
COMES AND
YOU CAN'T
RUN AT
FULL SPEED
WHILE
CARRYING
TWO OR
THREE CHILD-
REN...

...THEN
THAT'S AS
BAD AS
SACRIFIC-
ING THOSE
CHILDREN
TO THE
WOLVES!!



THERE
ARE NO
RULES
THREE
OR FOUR,
BUT RULE
FIVE IS
PHYSICAL
STRENGTH!

RULE
ONE:
PHYSICAL
STRENGTH!
RULE
TWO:
PHYSICAL
STRENGTH!

KNOW
THE
RULES
OF CHILD
REARING
!!



GINGER
TO TREAT
A COUGH,
NUTMEG FOR
DIARRHEA.

CLOVES
FOR
TOOTH-
ACHES.

SAFFRON
FOR CIRCUL-
ATION AND
LADIES' PRO-
BLEMS...



CINNAMON
AND CARDAM-
OM SHOULD
BE BOILED IN
MILK TO TREAT
STOMACH
PAINS.



IF THEY
CATCH A
COLD, THEN
IT'S CUMIN
AND
CLOVES!



AND
THE VERY
MOST IM-
PORTANT
PART...

...ARE
THE
SPICES
USED
FOR
MEDI-
CINE!



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THOSE
TWO?

THEY'VE
HAD A
LITTLE
TOO MUCH
STUFFED
INTO
THEM.



ガク
ガク
(GAKU
(STAGGERED))

ガク
ガク
(GAKU
(STAGGERED))

ガク
ガク
(GAKU
(STAGGERED))



...HERE WE
HAVE THE
WEDDING ATTIRE
THAT YOU'VE
ONLY HALF
COMPLETED.



NOW...



THAT
WAY IT'LL
COME OUT
PRETTIER!

AWW!
LET'S
HAVE
SOME-
BODY
ELSE DO
IT!



NO!

A BRIDE'S
ATTIRE
HAS ALWAYS
BEEN
SOMETHING
THE BRIDE
MAKES FOR
HERSELF!!



H
U
H?
H
U
H?

YOU'RE
GOING TO
FINISH IT
BEFORE THE
WEDDING.



THERE
ARE
PEOPLE
WHO DO
THIS
FOR A
LIVING!

WEREN'T
WE GOING
TO ASK
SOMEBODY
REALLY
GOOD TO
DO IT?





BRIDAL ATTIRE!!

WELL, ISN'T THIS NICE?

BIG SIS-
TER...



OH!



IS EVERY-
BODY IN
HERE?

HELLO!



NOW,
NOW.
LET ME
SEE.

OH,
AUNT-
IE!!

AND GIVE
ME SOME
SPACE, ALL
RIGHT?



SO
YOU'RE
RUSHING
TO COM-
PLETE IT?

THE CER-
EMONY'S
COMING
UP?

OHH?



AUNT-
IE!!

YOU
DON'T
MIND,
RIGHT?

I
ALWAYS
CARRY MY
NEEDLES
AND
THREAD.

I SEE!
WHY DON'T
I HELP
YOU OUT
A BIT?



AND
PUTTING
MY HAND TO
THIS KIND
OF THING
BRINGS MY
YOUTH BACK
TO ME.

THERE'S
NO
HARM
IN IT.



IF YOU
PACIFY THEM
ONCE, THEY'LL
THINK THEY
CAN GET
AWAY WITH
EVERYTHING.

SISTER,
YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE SO
INDULGENT
WITH
THESE
TWO.



...IT'S BEST
FOR AS MANY
PEOPLE AS
POSSIBLE TO TRY
THEIR NEEDLES
IN ANY BRIDAL
ATTIRE.

BE-
SIDES...



IT MAKES
FOR MORE
HAPPINESS.



YOU'LL
BE PRAC-
TICALLY
NEXT
DOOR.

IF
WE HAVE
QUESTIONS,
WE CAN
ALWAYS
COME
ASK.



WHAT'S
BEST IS TO
ALLOW OTHERS
TO ADD LITTLE
FINISHING
TOUCHES AT
THE END.

IF YOU
SLACK OFF
NOW, WHEN
SOME CRISIS
COMES UP
LATER, YOU
WON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.



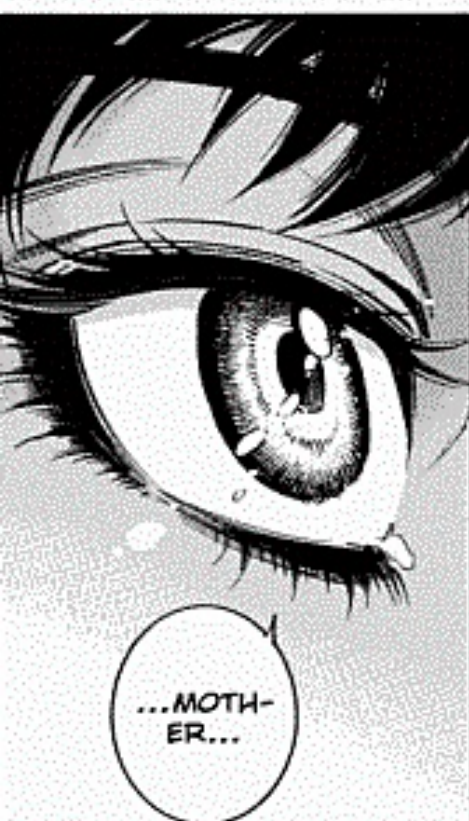
IF I'D LED
WITH THAT,
YOU WOULD
HAVE KEPT
RELYING ON
EVERYONE
ELSE.



...MOTHER,
YOU NEVER
SAID ANY-
THING LIKE
THAT.

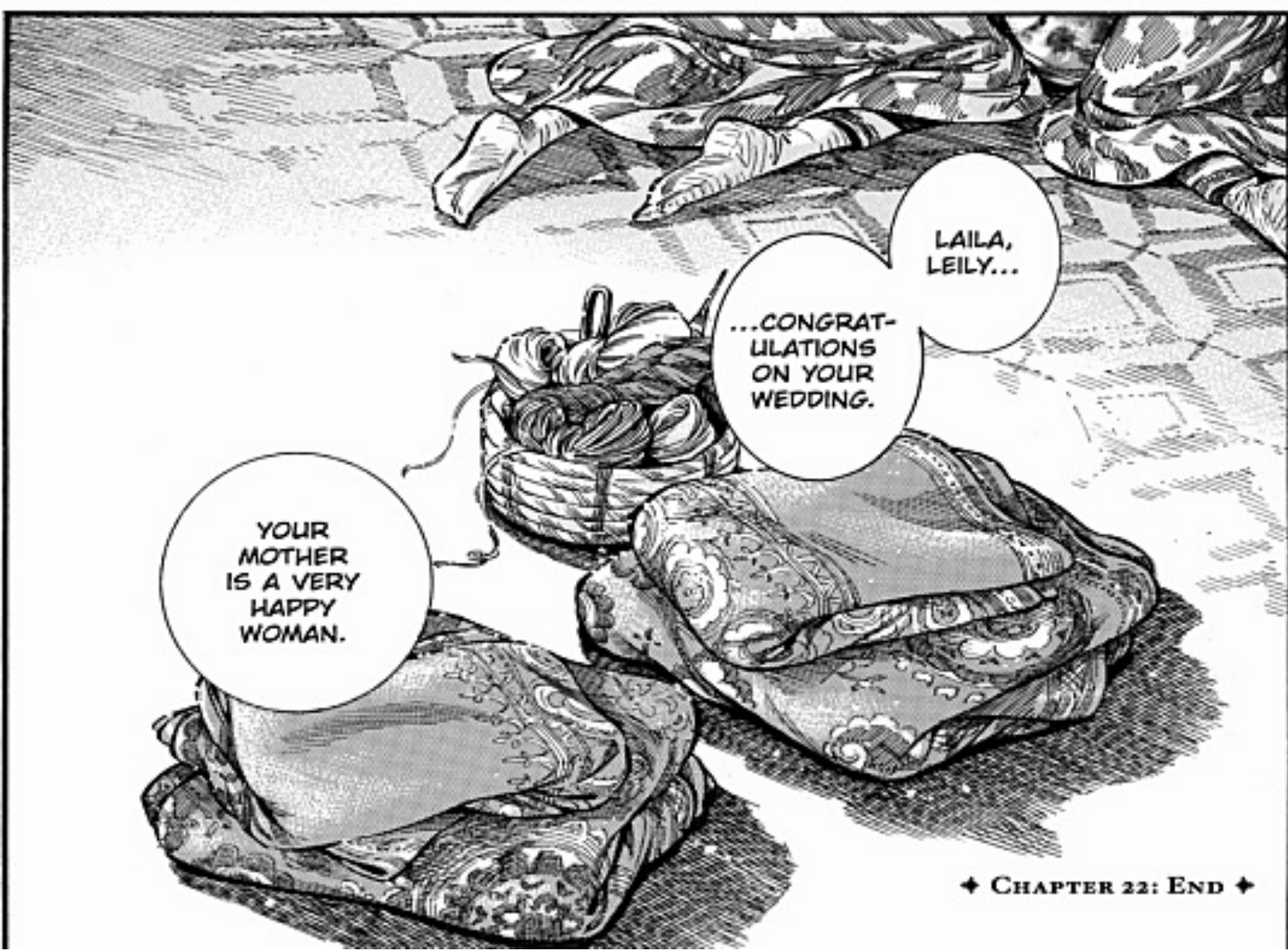








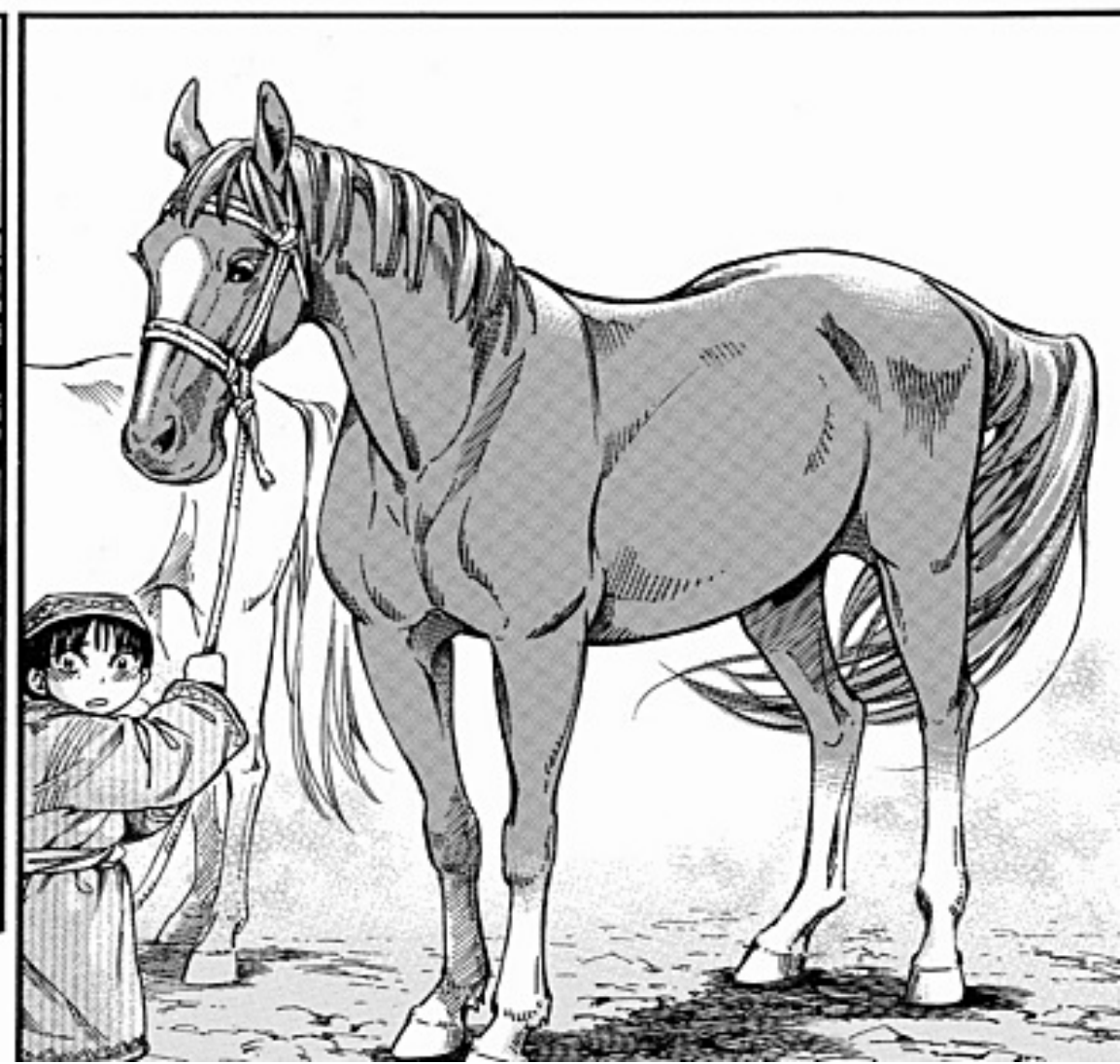






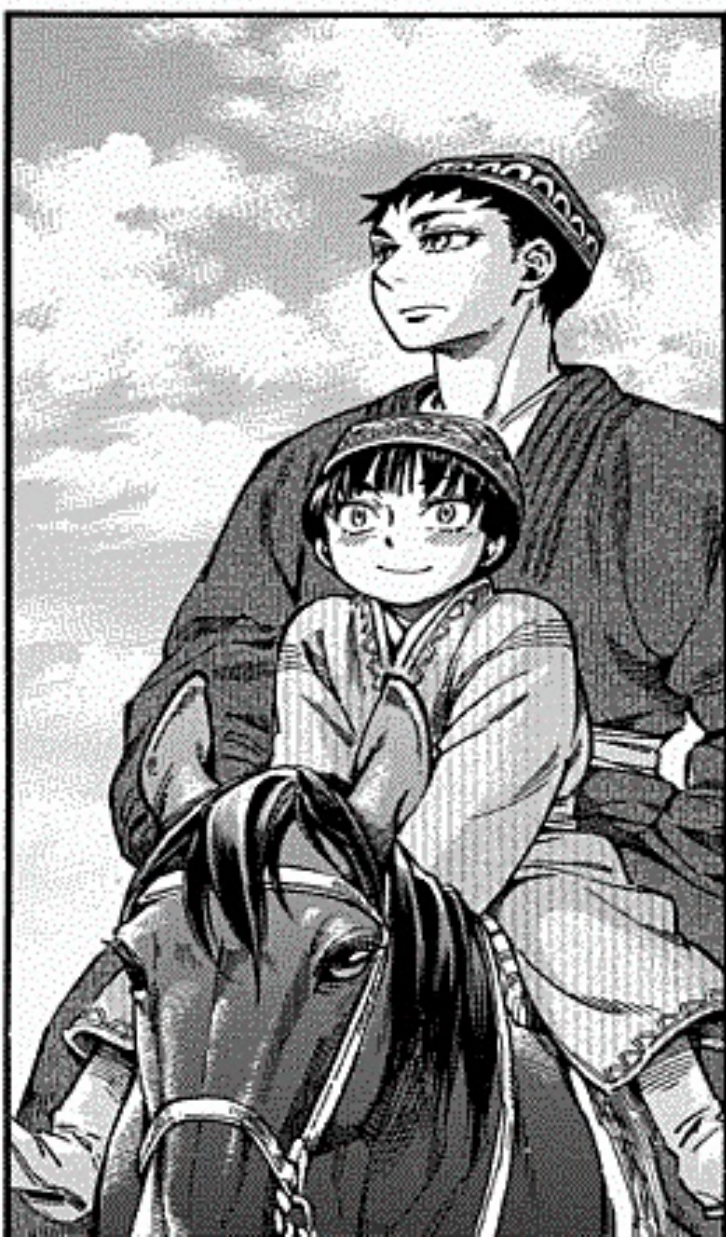
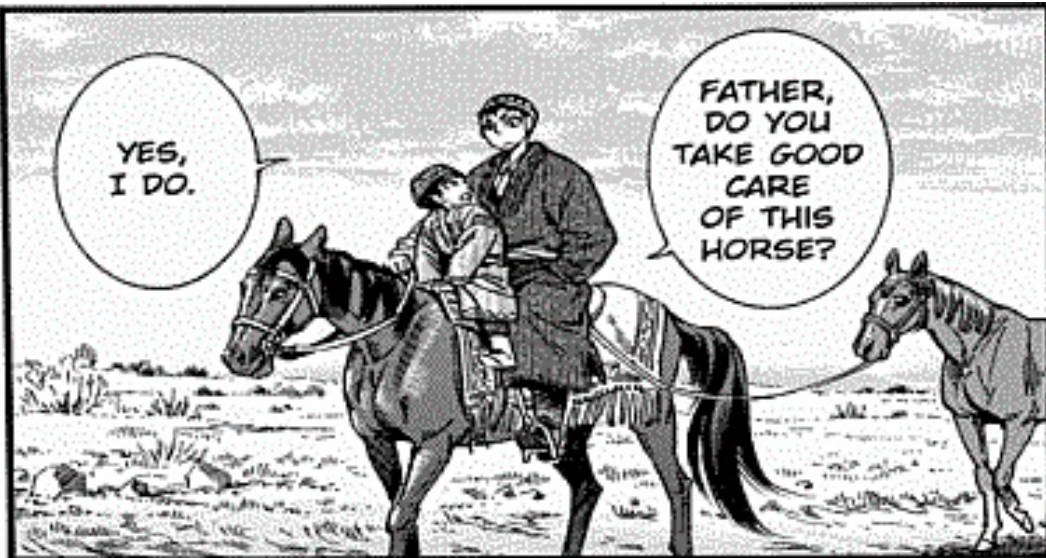
**SIDE STORY
AT THE HORSE
MARKET**

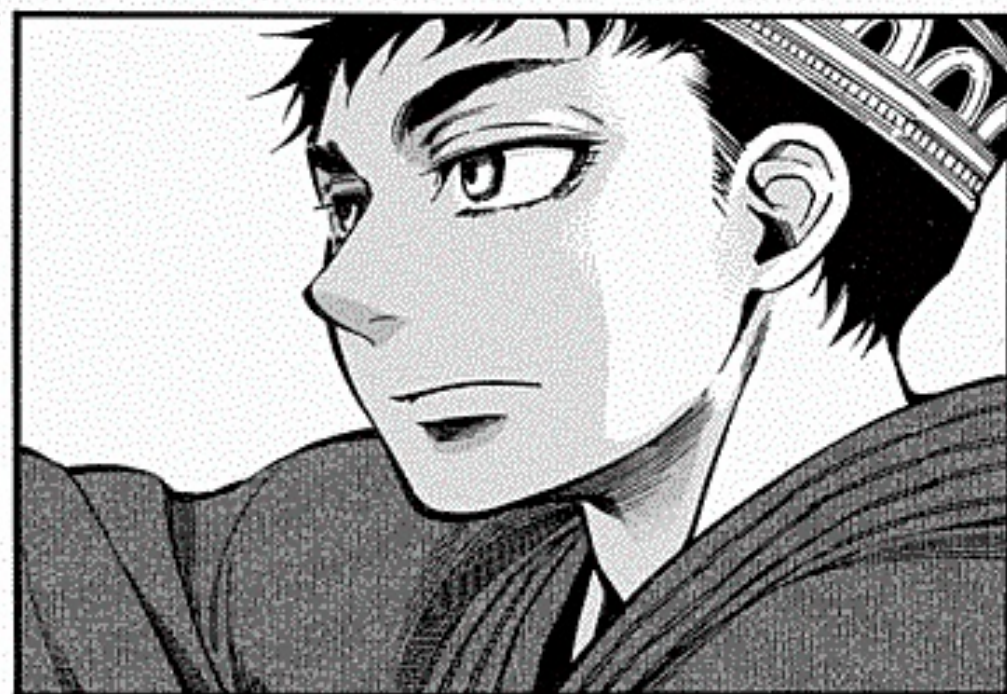
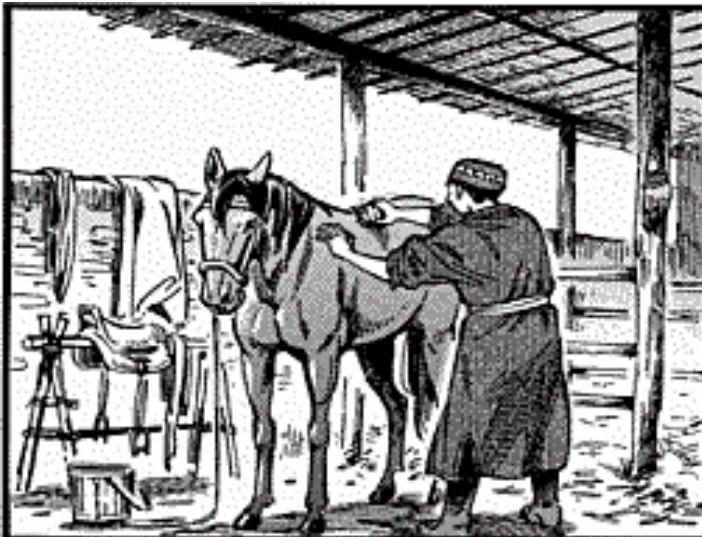




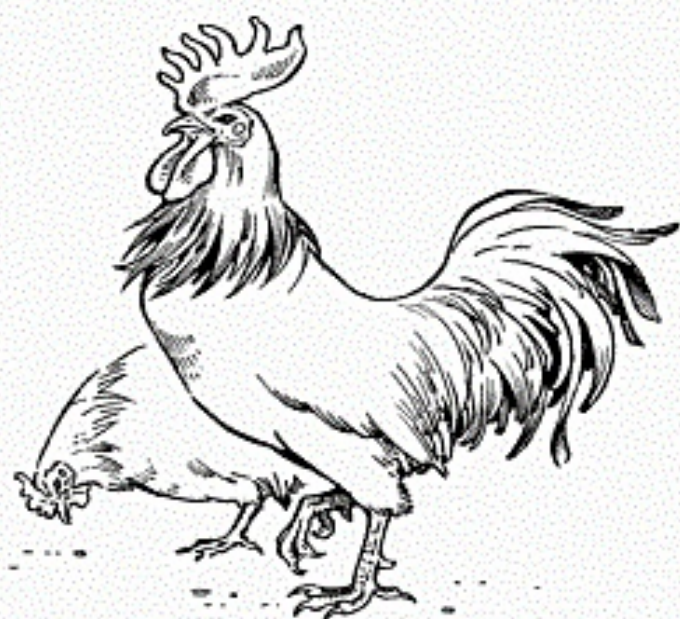


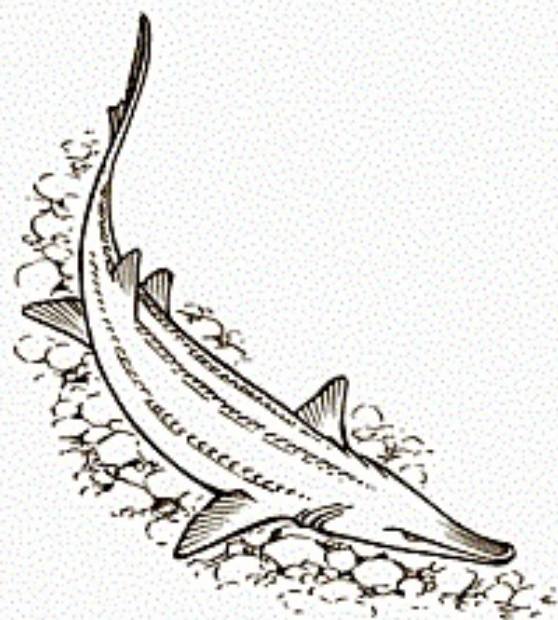




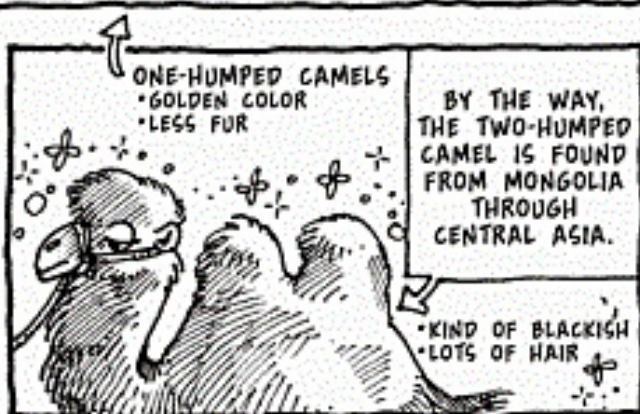
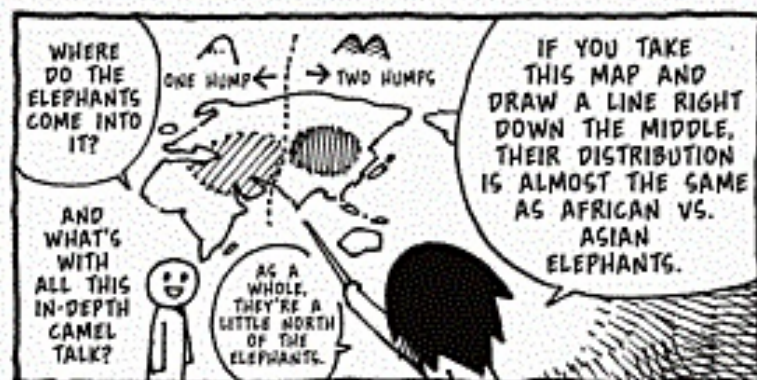
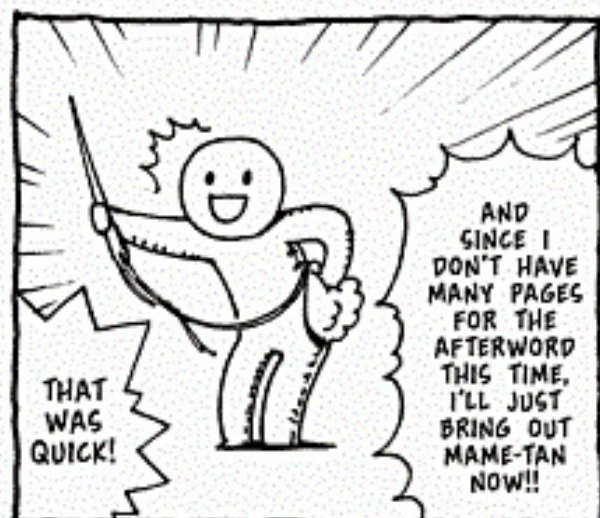


AFTERWORD





"WE ARE CHILDREN OF THE SEA"



*"WARE HA UMI NO KO" (WE ARE CHILDREN OF THE SEA) IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CHILDREN'S SONG THAT RECOUNTS AN IDYLIC LIFE LIVED ON THE SEASHORE. THE SONG FIRST APPEARED IN PRINT IN 1910 WHEN THE JAPANESE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PUT OUT A BOOK OF SCHOOL SONGS. AFTER THE WAR, THE AMERICAN OCCUPIERS DECIDED THAT THE FINAL SEVENTH VERSE, WHICH REFERENCES PROTECTING THE COUNTRY AND SEAS WITH WARSHIPS, SHOULD BE STRICKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE SONG.

THEY WERE IMPORTED TO JAPAN FROM THE ASIAN CONTINENT ALONG WITH TEA ITSELF STARTING IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE HEIAN PERIOD (794-1185).

BLUP!
BLOOI!



ACCORDING TO HIM, THE CHAWAN BOWLS WERE A PART OF THE DRY GOODS TRADING CULTURE...

I'VE COME FROM ACROSS THE SEA!

AND IT SEEMS THAT HE'S A REAL ANTHROPOLOGIST WHO REALLY LOVES TEA.

LIKE A MADE-TO-ORDER HYBRID!



THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THAT'S KIND OF AMAZING!

WHOA!

AND AN EXPERT TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THEM!

COME TO THINK OF IT, IN VOLUME 3, I SAID THAT I'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM SOMEONE WHO KNEW A LOT ABOUT CHAWAN RICE BOWLS.

BOX: TEA

USING CHAWAN (HIGH-QUALITY CHINA) AS A RICE BOWL

LUXURY!

USING THE BOWLS FOR HEAPS OF RICE IS ACTUALLY AN UNEXPECTEDLY RECENT DEVELOPMENT.

IT'S ONLY SINCE THE END OF THE EDO PERIOD (MID-1800S) AND MEIJI PERIOD (1868-1912) THAT THEY'VE BEEN USED FOR THAT.

IN LATER YEARS, ANY PORCELAIN VESSEL MADE SIMILAR TO THOSE FIRST IMPORTS WERE ALSO CALLED "CHAWAN."

CHAWAN (MADE BY POTTERS IN THE STYLE OF THE IMPORTS)



SUPER-SMOOTH!
SUPER-SLEEK!



CHAWAN (PORCELAIN)

SO AT THAT TIME, THE WORD "CHAWAN" TOOK ON THE MEANING OF "IMPORTED FINE CHINA."

THE EXPERT SAYS THAT IT WAS INITIALLY USED AS A VESSEL FOR DRINKING TEA (AS THE JAPANESE NAME IMPLIES).



JAPAN HAD ALWAYS USED LACQUERED WOODEN BOWLS.

Q. IF YOU, THE READER, HAVE EXPERIENCED A STRANGE WEDDING CUSTOM OR EVENT IN YOUR HOMETOWNS, TELL US ABOUT IT!

NOW WE GET TO THE PART I'VE BEEN WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR—THE READER RESPONSE CARDS FROM THE LAST VOLUME!

HALF CROUCH



COME TO THINK OF IT, THE BOWLS I ALWAYS SEE AT THE JAPANESE HISTORY MUSEUMS ARE ALWAYS MADE OF WOOD.



I THOUGHT THAT WE'VE BEEN USING CHAWAN AS OUR RICE BOWLS FOR AGES, BUT THAT ISN'T ENTIRELY TRUE, HUH?

I THOUGHT I'D SPEND MY THIRTIES TRAVELING TO EACH OF JAPAN'S PREFECTURES.



8
47

SO FAR I'VE GONE TO:

BY THE WAY, A LOT OF READERS INCLUDED THEIR AREAS' BEST PRODUCTS IN THEIR COMMENTS, SO WHEN I GO ON TRIPS, I'M GOING TO PICK SOME UP AS SOUVENIRS!

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS MANY ANSWERS, SO I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED!

BUT I DON'T WANT TO WASTE THEM, SO I'LL GET TO IT AT A LATER DATE!

OH, AND THERE WERE PLENTY OF ANSWERS!

I CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THEM RIGHT NOW BECAUSE OF THE PAGE COUNT, THOUGH.



...IN ANTICIPATION OF A HIGH BRIDE PRICE, THE BRIDE'S FAMILY GIVES HER A BUNDLE TO START OUT HER MARRIED LIFE.

SO IT'S SORT OF AN INDIRECT LIFELONG INHERITANCE FOR THE BRIDE.

IT ISN'T GIVEN DIRECTLY TO THE BRIDE HERSELF, BUT...

SHE DOES GET TO TAKE ENOUGH TO ENSURE SHE'LL NEVER WANT FOR MONEY HER ENTIRE LIFE.

NORMALLY IT'S EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE.

IT'S A PRICE PAID BY THE GROOM'S FAMILY TO THE BRIDE'S FAMILY IN LIVESTOCK OR CASH.

ABOUT THE "BRIDE PRICE" THAT THE TWO FATHERS WERE FIGHTING OVER...

NO WAY!

FORK IT OVER!

WHAT!?

...SO IF A WOMAN IS GOOD AT IT, SHE CAN INCREASE HER ESTATE QUITE A BIT...

BY THE WAY, GOOD EMBROIDERY CAN SELL FOR A VERY HIGH PRICE...

NO WAY!

GIVE IT!

THAT'S WHY THEY SAY THAT A BRIDE'S FAMILY HAS TO GET AS BIG A BRIDE PRICE AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE WEDDING.

NOT EVEN THE HUSBAND CAN LAY A HAND ON HIS WIFE'S WALLET.

DAILY EXPENSES, FOR EXAMPLE.

BOTH PAY

WIFE

HUS-BAND

IT ALSO MEANS THAT IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INHERITANCES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE WERE KEPT SEPARATE.

AND SO, VOLUME 5 WILL KICK OFF WITH THE TWINS' WEDDING!!

I DON'T THINK I CAN BELIEVE THAT.

I'LL COME OUT AND SAY IT SO THERE WON'T BE ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS. I'M A VERY SERIOUS PERSON.

FOR SOME REASON, THIS AFTER-WORD IS PRETTY SERIOUS.

OH, AND TO ALL OF YOU WHO SENT IN YOUR READER RESPONSE CARDS, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

TRULY!

GOOD-BYE!
GOOD-BYE!

AND SO, LET'S MEET AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME!

AND A POSSIBILITY OF BRIEF SHOWERS OF ARROWS.

THE WEATHER FOR THE NEXT VOLUME IS CLEAR WITH A CHANCE OF SHEEP.

WITH OCCASIONAL LOVE TORNADOES, DEPENDING ON THE REGION.

THE END

A BRIDE'S STORY ④



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